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The Power of Good

BCCI announces Rs 131 cr cash reward for WC-winning India

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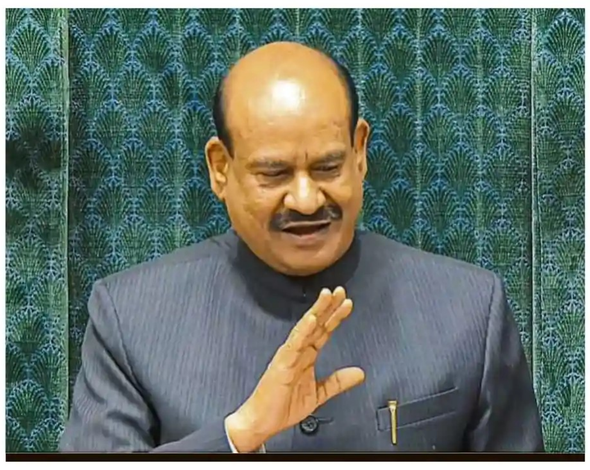
Oppn accuses Speaker Birla of 'partisan' behaviour



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NO-TRUST MOTION: Gaurav Gogoi says resolution to 'save Constitution and dignity of House'

Oppn accuses Speaker Birla of 'partisan' behaviour

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Opposition on Tuesday moved an unprecedented resolution seeking the removal of Om Birla as Lok Sabha, accusing him of "partisan" behaviour while insisting that they were forced to take such a recourse to "save the Constitution" and the "dignity of the House".

In what is only the fourth such instance in India's Parliamentary history, the debate saw Opposition MPs highlighting various instances they project as partisan, the absence of appointing a Deputy Speaker for the past seven years and how a panel of chairpersons appointed by the Speaker, facing action, can chair the proceedings.

The debate for which ten hours have been allocated will conclude on Wednesday with Home Minister Amit Shah's speech and subsequent voting, in which numbers are stacked against the Opposition, though it believes that it could send a political message even while losing in a vote at the end.

Initiating the debate, Congress Deputy Leader Gaurav Gogoi detailed how Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi was allegedly not allowed to raise "critical issues", including Prime Minister Narendra Modi's handling of China, Indo-US trade deal and Epstein Files in which the names of an Indian industrialist and a Union Minister have surfaced.

Claiming that the Opposition was forced to bring such a notice against Birla to "save the Constitution" and the "dignity of the House", he also alleged that the Speaker made "baseless" allegations against women Opposition MPs when he said he had asked Modi not to come to the House because the Opposition was planning an "unprecedented" protest against him during his reply to the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. He said it was legally distinct because the Speaker preemptively advised the PM not to attend, and that is a complete breach of neutrality.

GAURAV GOGOI
Congress MP

"There was an expectation that the chair would be neutral. But research of uncorrected versions would show the number of times the Leader of Opposition (LoP) was interrupted. While the LoP was on his feet, another member was called upon (to speak).

When Gogoi claimed that records would show that Kiren Rijiju would be found to interrupt opposition members more often than any other Parliamentary Affairs Minister in the past, Shah shot back, saying he would accept that, but he would add that there has never been an "irresponsible" opposition like the current one.

Trinamool Congress' Mahua Moitra claimed that it was "divine karma" that she was opening the debate for her party on a resolution against Birla, who she claimed did not provide her an opportunity to present her views when she was "wrongly" expelled from the House in 2023. She also claimed that he has set "less than graceful benchmarks" while presiding over the House.

'Mass suspension'

Claiming that almost half of the suspension of MPs between 2004 and 2026 showed that it came during the period Birla was the Speaker, she said, "it is all that democracy should not be. In December 2023, Birla-ji ordered the largest mass suspension in the history of the Indian Parliament, suspending 100 opposition MPs. This one episode alone accounted for over 40% of all Lok Sabha suspensions since 2004."

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra speaks in Lok Sabha during the second part of Budget session of Parliament, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. PTI

'No one above the Speaker': Rijiju to Opposition

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Leading the charge on behalf of the treasury benches, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday hit back at the Opposition during the debate on the no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, saying parliamentary rules must be respected by all members.

Launching a veiled attack on Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Rijiju said there was "no cure" if someone believed they were above the authority of the Speaker.

"Look at the Constitution and the rules of the House; no one has challenged any decision of the Speaker. I was upset that day when the Leader of the Opposition said, 'I do not need permission from anyone to speak in Parliament,' and that comment is on record. The LoP also said it was his right to speak in Parliament.

Union minister Kiren Rijiju speaks in Lok Sabha. PTI

Why are the senior members in Congress not explaining that in this House, the Prime Minister, ministers and the LoP all need the Speaker's permission to speak?" Rijiju said.

Dismissing the charge that the Speaker was partial to the ruling alliance, Rijiju said there are established rules governing when and how a member may speak. "As per Rule 115 (A), there is a provision that whenever MPs give a notice to speak – whether a party gives such a notice or a member on their own gives one – they can speak. If one member wants to draw the Speaker's attention, they can raise their hand. The rule clearly states that the Speaker can give any member a chance to speak," he said.

Before Rijiju's speech, several Opposition members protested after BJP MP Jagdambika Pal was made the presiding officer, with Congress Deputy Leader Gaurav Gogoi asking how Pal was chosen when a panel of chairpersons do it. The sharp exchanges led to an intervention by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who said the Speaker's authority to appoint a presiding member remains valid even when a motion concerning the Speaker is under discussion.

Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Chirag Paswan also criticised the Opposition.

Illegal mines in Aravalli permitted during Cong rule: Minister in Rajya Sabha

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday witnessed heated exchanges between the treasury and Opposition benches with the Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav accusing Congress of "hiding its sins" and claiming that 70-80% of the mining leases in the Aravalli hills were granted by the Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan.

"We are committed to protecting the Aravalli. The illegal mines permitted during the Congress rule are the basis for the litigation. The leases for 70-80% of mines were given during their time... now they are trying to hide their sins," Yadav said while responding to a debate on the functioning of the environment ministry.

Earlier, Congress member Neeraj Dangi spoke on the degradation of the Aravalli range and alleged that illegal mining has destroyed several hillocks.

Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan allowed Dangi to intervene as a special case, though the discussions on the topic concluded on Monday when the Opposition staged a walkout.

Yadav said the litigations related to Aravallis were from the time when Gehlot was the chief minister of Rajasthan and the Congress-led UPA government was at the Centre. The minister said he raised questions on illegal mining in the Aravalli way back in 2012 when he entered the Upper House for the first time.

In recent months, a huge controversy has erupted on how exactly the Aravalli hills will be defined after a new height-based criterion set by the Union government and accepted by the Supreme Court.

BHUPENDER YADAV
Union minister

"Before 2014, it used to take around 600 days to get an environmental clearance in this country... If somebody wanted to start an industry, it would take him about three years to get the environmental clearance... Now, we have ensured that an environmental clearance is given within 90 days... This has happened through the government's effort to expand digital empowerment by bringing PARIVESH in 2018.

Following a public outcry with critics claiming that a large part of the Aravalli hill and range may not get the protection if mining permissions are given on the basis of the new definition, the apex court has decided to review the definition of the Aravalli hills to ensure their protection. Yadav outlined other programmes being undertaken by his ministry and promised further modifications in the environment clearance process.

Furthermore, the minister announced plans to launch Project Gharial and Project Sloth Bear, aimed at conserving these two species, similar to programmes for tigers, elephants, lions, and dolphins.

Bharat-made trainsets for bullet train project

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways on Tuesday tabled a report in Parliament stating that India's first bullet train project — the Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail corridor — will commence operations using indigenously developed, Bharat-made trainsets.

The report said the ambitious 508-km corridor will begin services with the Bharat-made bullet trainset (B28).

This approach aligns with the government's push for self-reliance through initiatives such as Make in India and *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*, enabling domestic manufacturing of rolling stock and reducing reliance on imports, the report noted.

The initial operational section, spanning approximately 97 km between Surat and Vapi, is expected to become functional by August 2027, using these India-made high-speed trains. The trainsets are being designed for speeds of up to 280 kmph, with two eight-coach trainsets currently under development by BEML in Bengaluru.

India remains engaged with US government: Jitin Prasada

NEW DELHI, PTI: The government is studying all the tariff-related developments in the US for their implications and remains engaged with America, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada said that on February 7, an additional tariff of 25 per cent was imposed by the US on certain Indian exports over India's purchase of Russian oil.

"Pursuant to the US Supreme Court judgement dated 20th February 2026 invalidating reciprocal tariffs, the reciprocal tariffs are no longer in force.

"The US government has issued executive orders imposing 10 per cent tariffs on certain products for all countries. The government is studying all the developments thereafter for their implications and remains engaged with the US government," he said.

In a separate reply, Prasada said India has offered limited and carefully calibrated tariff concessions on select agricultural products while safeguarding domestic sensitivities through quotas, phased concessions, and partial duty reductions under the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement.

Apex court to watch videos of Wangchuk's speeches

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it would watch videos of Sonam Wangchuk's speeches this week and reserved its order on March 17 on a plea filed by the jailed climate activist's wife Gitanjali J Angmo challenging his detention under the National Security Act (NSA).

Sonam Wangchuk

A bench of justices Aravind Kumar and PB Varale said the judges would watch the videos this Thursday and they have requested the registrar to make arrangements for the screening.

"The judges will be watching the videos on Thursday. First we will watch the videos independently and then both the judges will watch the videos together," Justice Kumar said.

Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, appearing for the Centre and Union Territory of Ladakh administration, said Solicitor General Tushar Mehta was unwell and had requested for adjournment of the hearing in the matter.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Angmo, said that frequent adjournments in the matter was sending a "wrong signal" in the country.

The bench said it is posting the matter for final hearing on March 17 and made it clear that whatever happens on that day, the court will be reserving its decision.

"We are making it absolutely clear that no matter what we will be reserving our decision on next Tuesday after the final hearing. We will not allow any new points to be argued and the Solicitor General can only argue the new points raised by Mr. Sibal in his rejoinder arguments," Justice Kumar said.

Earlier, Mehta had sought to address the issue raised by the bench regarding the translations of Wangchuk's speeches.

SC seeks Centre's reply on SC/ST creamy layer

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

QUOTA QUAGMIRE

- Plea contends non-exclusion of the creamy layer from SC/ST quota violates Articles 14, 15
- It claims non-implementation of creamy layer against basic structure of Constitution
- Says it leads to 'misallocation of scarce public resources'

The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notice to the Union government and states on a fresh plea seeking exclusion of the creamy layer from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes reservation in public jobs and education.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi decided to examine the writ petition filed by former chairman of the Railway Board and principal secretary to the Union government, Gyanendra Kumar Khare.

It ordered to tag the instant plea with another petition filed earlier by O P Shukla and Samata Andolan Samiti.

The plea contended that non-exclusion of the creamy layer from the SC/ST reservation leads to violation of Articles 14 and 15 and the golden goals enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution.

It also stated that the non-implementation of the creamy layer within SC/ST reservations is arbitrary, unconstitutional, and violative of the basic structure of the Constitution.

The plea is intended to ensure that the benefits of the quota reach the genuinely disadvantaged sections and to uphold the constitutional mandate of justice, equality, fraternity, administrative efficiency, and national unity. It claimed the absence of creamy layer exclusion has resulted in internal stratification within SC/ST communities.

"Advanced families repeatedly corner reservation benefits, while the most backward and first-generation beneficiaries remain excluded. This perpetuates inequality within the reserved categories, deepens social stigma, and defeats the very purpose of social justice. Economically, reservation without creamy layer exclusion leads to misallocation of scarce public resources," it said.

The pending plea sought a direction to the Centre and the states to comply with the directions laid down by the 7-judge constitution bench in its August 2024 order, which favoured sub-classification among the SC/STs.

Ahead of polls, Cabinet approves infra projects in Tamil Nadu and Bengal

Madurai airport set for international status; rail projects cleared for WB

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Ahead of the Tamil Nadu and West Bengal Assembly elections, the Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved several infrastructure projects in the two states, including a proposal to declare Madurai airport an international airport.

"The decision to approve the proposal to declare Madurai airport an international airport was taken keeping in mind the aspirations of the people of Madurai. This is a prominent city in Tamil Nadu," Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters.

Madurai will become the third international airport in Tamil Nadu once the status change is implemented. The policy would help expand air connectivity from various parts of the world to the city, he said.

He also said several airlines have already shown interest in expanding their international operations from the airport.

The decision could also attract international pilgrims and businesses, given Madurai's long-standing cultural and historical importance. Besides, the airport will also improve connectivity to key pilgrimage sites, including Meenakshi Amman temple, Koodal Azhagar temple, Thirupparankundram Murugan temple, Palamudhircholai Murugan temple, and Rameswaram.

Ashwini Vaishnaw

Rail projects for Bengal

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved two railway multi-tracking projects connecting West Bengal and Jharkhand at a cost of Rs 4,474 crore. The projects include the construction of the 4th line for Sainthia–Pakur and Santragachi–Kharagpur, covering 192 km across 5 districts in two states.

The Cabinet also approved the revised total capital cost of Rs 3,630.77 crore to develop road connectivity to the upcoming Jewar international airport in Uttar Pradesh.

The proposed 31.42-kilometre-long corridor will provide direct and high-speed connectivity from South Delhi, Faridabad, and Gurugram to the airport, thereby promoting economic growth and logistics efficiency across the National Capital Region (NCR), an official release said.

The CCEA also approved the development of a 4-lane corridor from the Badnawar-Petlawad-Thandla-Timarwani section of NH-752D in Madhya Pradesh, having a length of 80.45 kilometre at a cost of Rs 3,839.42 crore.

NCERT issues public apology over chapter on 'judicial graft'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has issued an unconditional public apology and withdrawn a Class 8 social science textbook containing a controversial chapter on the judiciary, two weeks after the Supreme Court ordered a blanket ban on the publication.

The NCERT published an apology in newspapers, saying that it regretted the publication. In the notice, the council said, "The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has recently published a social science textbook 'Exploring Society: India and Beyond', Grade 8 (Part-II), which contained Chapter IV titled 'The Role of Judiciary in Our Society'. The Director and Members of NCERT hereby tender an unconditional and unqualified apology for the said Chapter IV. The entire book has been withdrawn and is not available."

The apology comes in the wake of directions issued by the SC, which had earlier ordered a complete ban on the textbook after objections were raised over the contents of the chapter dealing with the judiciary.

Following the court's order, the council withdrew the book from circulation and halted its availability in the market.

Sources said the move was intended to comply with the court's directions and address concerns regarding the material included in the chapter. The council has also indicated that the textbook will remain withdrawn pending further review.

The aforementioned book had a chapter on "corruption in the judiciary", drawing a sharp reaction from the Chief Justice Surya Kant.

"I will not allow anyone on earth to taint the integrity of the institution and defame the institution. At any cost, I will not permit it. Whosoever high it may be, the law will take its course. I know how to deal with it," he said.

Cyber fraud: 208 arrested in Telangana for holding mule bank accounts

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Telangana State Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) arrested 208 people, including 15 women, seven students, two lecturers, and one government employee working in the electricity department, for acting as mule bank account holders for cyber fraudsters.

The mule account holders used to receive up to 5% commission on each fraudulent transaction routed through their accounts.

During the special 'Operation Crackdown 1.0', police seized 63 mobile phones and 208 bank passbooks and cheque books. 137 police teams consisting of 512 personnel conducted surprise checks at 137 identified bank branches across the state to verify 1,888 suspicious mule bank accounts linked with 9451 crimes across India involving an estimated loss of Rs 100 crores. It resulted in 549 FIRs, the identification of 626 suspects and the arrest of 208 accused persons.

The mule account holders used to receive up to 5% commission on each fraudulent transaction routed through their accounts

The accused come from diverse professional and social backgrounds, highlighting the widespread nature of cyber-enabled financial crimes. Those arrested include two bank employees from Bank of Maharashtra and Jubilee Hills Merchant Cooperative Bank, along with software engineers, businessmen, private employees, healthcare workers, students, and daily wage labourers.

Investigators also found that some mule account holders opened online or virtual bank accounts using fake identities, fabricated KYC documents, and proxy mobile numbers, enabling fraudsters to operate anonymously and move money rapidly through multiple accounts.

The police further identified 52 associates who played key roles in supporting the mule account network. Their activities included recruiting individuals to open bank accounts, arranging SIM cards, collecting ATM cards and PIN details, providing access to internet banking credentials, and coordinating cash withdrawals or fund transfers after the fraudulent amounts were credited.

A woman carries that she collected from a well, in Kurenga panchayat of Bastar district, on Tuesday. With the advancing summer months, water becomes a scarce resource across many arid regions of the country. PTI

Bengaluru Wednesday, March 11, 2026 Pages 20 Vol 79 No 70 ₹7

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IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers resigns

MD Rahul Bhatia to assume management on interim basis

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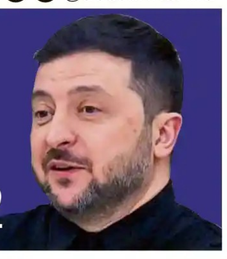
World

US proposed Ukraine-Russia talks next week: Zelenskyy P.12



Nation

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25% of Apple phones made in India P.13

Govt invokes emergency clause to ensure gas to priority areas

FUEL CRISIS: Directs refineries, petrochem units to boost LPG output

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union government on Tuesday invoked emergency provisions under the Essential Commodities Act to regulate the supply of natural gas to priority sectors like domestic cooking and transportation as the ongoing conflict in West Asia continues to disrupt global energy flows.

The Narendra Modi government has also directed refineries and petrochemical units to maximise the production of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). According to official sources, the directive has led to around 10% increase in domestic production of LPG.

India is dependent on imports to meet over 60% of its LPG requirements. Roughly 90% of these imports are typically routed through the Strait of Hormuz. Near closure of the Strait due to the US-Israel-Iran war has hit oil and gas supplies globally, including India.

Though the government claims that so far there is no shortage of oil and gas supplies in the country, it has invoked the force majeure clause to prevent hoarding and ensure availability of energy for priority sectors of the economy.

WAR SHOCKS

The development came after restaurants in major cities including Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Delhi complained about LPG shortages. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has formed a panel comprising executive directors of oil marketing companies including Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum to monitor the supplies of commercial LPG.

▸ ECA, Page 5

PRIORITY SECTORS

- Domestic piped natural gas
- Compressed natural gas for transport
- LPG production
- Pipeline compressor fuel
- Other essential pipeline operational requirements
- Besides domestic customers, supplies to be made to hospitals, educational institutions, etc

RESTRICTIONS

- Other sectors may face gas curbs
- Petrochem facilities like ONGC Petro Additions, GAIL Pata Petrochemical Complex, Reliance O2C may face curbs

> In light of geopolitical disruptions to fuel supply and constraints on LPG supply, the Ministry has taken the step for higher LPG production and securing it for supplying to domestic customers.
>
> **Joint statement by Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum**

Firewood, menu cut: Hotels' desperate steps amid gas woes

ASHWIN B M & PUSHKAR V
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru's hotel industry is facing a severe shortage of commercial liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), pushing the city's hospitality sector to the brink of a total shutdown.

Following the West Asia crisis, the commercial gas supply has effectively dried up since Monday. While some hotel owners are desperately scouting for firewood to keep their stoves burning, others have already begun slashing menus or shutting doors.

What's next?

Price hikes: Many hotels are discussing a mandatory price hike on food items

Menu shrinkage: Expect limited menus as kitchens prioritise quick-cooking dishes

Potential shutting: If the supply chain does not resume by mid-week, the association warns of a large-scale temporary shutdown of hotels.

Rakesh, owner of the popular Ramakrishna Hotel near Majestic said, "We have reduced all 'gas-guzzler' items. Meals and pooris are off the menu for now because they consume too much fuel. We are shifting to limited items like rice baths which require less gas," Rakesh said. "The government seems helpless. If this is not resolved in four or five days, we will have to close."

The sentiment is echoed across the city centre. At Mudde Madappa Mess in Gandhinagar, the owner said, "Tomorrow, there is no gas. We are hearing reports of cylinders being sold in the black market for higher rates. Without gas, we can't even serve rice. We don't know what to do," he said.

▸ Hotels, Page 6

Draft policy to compensate for Covid shot side effects: SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Union government to frame a no-fault compensation policy for individuals who suffered serious adverse events after the Covid-19 vaccination.

A bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta told the government to expeditiously formulate the policy.

"When the fundamental rights of citizens are violated due to executive policies, or by lack of them, as in this case, it is the constitutional duty of this court to safeguard them," the bench said in its judgment on a batch of petitions filed by Rachna Gangu and others.

The bench noted that India does not appear to have in place any uniform or structured policy mechanism to provide redress to individuals who suffer adverse effects following vaccination.

"This gap cannot be overlooked, particularly when vaccination programmes are undertaken as public health measures under the aegis and authority of the state itself," the bench said.

The court also said that the existing mechanism for monitoring Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI) would continue.

▸ Covid, Page 4

No activities in Sharavati macaque sanctuary, says HC

Pumped storage project violates Wildlife Act: PIL

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday passed an interim order barring all activities within the Sharavati Lion-Tailed Macaque (LTM) Sanctuary and eco-sensitive zone for the proposed Sharavati Pumped Storage Project.

"We direct that no steps or activities in furtherance of the project shall be carried out on the ground i.e, within the boundaries of Sharavati Lion-Tailed Macaque (LTM) sanctuary and eco- sensitive zone in the forest, without orders from this court," a division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha said.

The bench was hearing the PIL filed by Akhilesh Chipli, Ravindranath Shanbhogue and Manohar Kumar C B, challenging the approval granted by the standing committee of National Board of Wildlife in its 84th meeting for the 2,000 MW pumped storage project.

During the hearing, Additional Solicitor General Arvind Kamat, appearing for the Union government and Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty, appearing for the state government, submitted that the PIL is premature as no in-principle approval has been granted by the National Wildlife Board.

▸ Sharavati, Page 5

ECO CONCERNS

- Centre, state submit that the PIL is premature
- Contend that no in-principle approval has been granted by National Wildlife Board
- Inform court that there are serious concerns about project, which are yet to be examined
- Petitioners say that the massive hydro-electric project in no way satisfies statutory conditions of the Wildlife Act

Defiant Tehran P 12

Iran vows to block Gulf oil

Iran vowed on Tuesday that not one litre of oil would be exported from the Gulf while the US and Israel continue their bombardment, as the UAE closed its biggest oil refinery after a drone attack.

Steep spike P 6

Eating out set to cost more

The sudden shortage of commercial LPG cylinders, coupled with the absence of a regulatory framework, will have a ripple effect where hotel-goers may soon have to pay a hefty price for their daily food.

Stranded P 6

Byadgi chillis stuck in Mumbai

The ongoing war in West Asia has impacted the export of Byadgi chilli for the last 10 days. More than 1,000 containers of Byadgi chilli are stuck in the Mumbai port alone following the suspension of exports to the Gulf.

Fare hike

AI to levy fuel surcharge

Air India and Air India Express will levy a fuel surcharge of Rs 399 on each domestic flight ticket from March 12 and hike the charge for international bookings due to a rise in jet fuel prices amid the West Asia conflict.

SC bats for Uniform Civil Code to ensure equal rights to all women

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that the only way to ensure equal rights to all women in the country is to bring in the Uniform Civil Code, as it took up a PIL questioning the succession provisions under Muslim personal law (Shariat).

"It is true that a large section of Muslim society is deprived of equal inheritance rights, but if the inheritance provision of Shariat Law is struck down, then what law should govern the inheritance? The answer, as correctly said, is the Uniform Civil Code. The only way to ensure equal rights to all women in the country is to bring in a Uniform Civil Code across India," a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, and Justices R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi said.

The court was considering a plea by Poulomi Pavini Shukla and others, seeking equal inheritance rights for Muslim women.

> In our over-anxiety for reforms, we may end up depriving them, and they might end up getting less than what they are already getting. If the Shariat Act of 1937 goes away, then what is the question?
>
> **CJI Surya Kant**

While acknowledging that there were many asymmetries in different societies, including those of the tribals, the court, however, questioned the petitioners as to whether these could be struck down by the court.

The bench also asked if the equality goal of one man-one woman, that is, monogamous marriage, has been achieved.

"Can this court strike down all polygamous marriages in the country," the bench further asked.

▸ UCC, Page 5

Plea against Kambala in B'luru nixed, Page 4

NCERT apologises, Facing Page

India eases FDI norms for China, other countries

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Cabinet on Tuesday eased norms for foreign direct investment (FDI) for countries sharing land borders with India, including China.

The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the changes in FDI policy, a statement said.

"This would help in leveraging and enhancing India's competitiveness as a preferred investment and manufacturing destination. Increased FDI inflows would supplement domestic capital, support the objectives of Atmanirbhar Bharat, and accelerate overall economic growth," the statement said.

Details on Page 13

GIVING A SLIP

A policeman chases a Tibetan protester during a demonstration near the Chinese embassy, held to mark the Tibetan uprising anniversary in New Delhi on Tuesday. AFP

Cabinet extends Jal Jeevan Mission till 2028

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the extension of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) till 2028, with an additional allocation of Rs 1.51 lakh crore.

"The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved Ministry of Jal Shakti's proposal to restructure and reorient the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) from infrastructure creation to a service delivery, supported by drinking water governance and institutional ecosystem for sustainable rural piped potable water supply," a statement said.

For restructuring JJM focussing on structural reforms, the Cabinet has approved enhancement of total outlay to Rs 8.69 lakh crore with total central assistance of Rs 3.59 lakh crore enhancing from Rs 2.08 lakh crore, the statement said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget had announced extension of the JJM till 2028 as several states requested the Centre to grant more funds and extend the timeline for its implementation.

TWIN WIN

Finance panel favours congestion fee in Bengaluru

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The 5th State Finance Commission has recommended introduction of congestion charges on Bengaluru's busy roads like the Outer Ring Road (ORR) by using a FASTag-type concept. The mechanism, it believes, will generate revenues to the fund-starved corporations and also reduce the city's traffic congestion and pollution.

The government had constituted a three-member commission headed by former MP Dr C Narayanaswamy to evaluate the sources of revenue and expenditure in each of the city corporations in Bengaluru and recommend to the state government for grant-in-aid to one or more corporations.

TACKLING TRAFFIC

- Finance panel says congestion tax can be implemented by using a FASTag-type concept
- Panel refers to success of such a model in force in London since 2003
- Suggests implementation on roads that are served by public transport
- Says congestion fee generates revenue which can be reinvested in public transport

In the 200-page report, the commission has found that the West and North Corporations were not strong financially compared to three other corporations.

Among different suggestions to raise funds, the commission has recommended the introduction of congestion charge by making a reference to a similar concept adopted by London in 2003.

"This charge is on a daily basis on vehicles entering a defined zone with fully camera-based enforcement. It is innovative because it is one of the first large-scale urban road pricing systems globally," the report states, pointing to the London model. "It uses a pricing policy not just to raise money but also to change public behaviour."

The commission goes on to state that the congestion fee generates predictable, recurring revenue and the revenue is largely reinvested in public transport and road improvements.

▸ Traffic, Page 5

Quickly

Terrorist killed as army foils infiltration bid

Security forces on Tuesday foiled an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, killing one terrorist during a brief exchange of fire, officials said. Acting on intelligence inputs about possible infiltration, Army personnel launched a swift operation and challenged the militants attempting to cross over from across the border, they said.

Details on Page 11

BJP names candidates for MLC polls

The BJP on Tuesday announced its candidates for upcoming elections to three MLC posts. Shashil G Namoshi, SV Sankanura and KM Suresh have been announced as the candidates for North East teachers, West Graduates and South East Graduates, respectively.

Belagavi: Cyberfraud network uncovered

A massive cyber fraud network that allegedly used 2,900 mule bank accounts to funnel fraudulent transactions has been uncovered, police said on Tuesday. Belagavi Police Commissioner Bhushan Borase said that four separate cases have been registered at the Cyber, Economic and Narcotics Police Station in connection with the racket.

Will strengthen ties with India: Balen

Rastriya Swatantra Party's (RSP) prime ministerial candidate Balendra Shah on Tuesday expressed confidence in further deepening "historic" Nepal-India ties and making them more "outcome-oriented". The 35-year-old rapper-turned-politician is all set to become Nepal's first Madhesi prime minister and also the Himalayan nation's youngest elected executive head.

Details on Page 12

Two killed in police firing in Meghalaya

Two people were killed when security forces opened fire to disperse mobs in Meghalaya's West Garo Hills district on Tuesday morning amid tensions over the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) elections, officials said.

The administration clamped curfew, suspended mobile internet for 48-hours and called for additional forces, including the army, as the situation remained tense after clashes since Monday night.

Details on Page 10

Toastmasters Speechcraft

BENGALURU, DHNS: Toastmasters Speechcraft will hold a seven-week hands-on workshop on public speaking and communication. The workshop will be held from March at the Daffodils Toastmasters Club, Malleswaram. For details contact: +91 9119422950 /+91 9513 850101.

The workshop cultivates confident speakers and guides them in goal-setting.

Invites to be published should be sent to:
incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.
Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar during the Legislative Assembly session on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

Stop property tax terrorism in B'luru, BJP MLAs tell DKS

Discrepancies will be set right, assures Shivakumar

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Opposition BJP lawmakers on Tuesday accused the Congress government of unleashing "tax terrorism" on citizens in Bengaluru, with more than 24,000 properties being issued show-cause notices based on an ongoing drone survey.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is in charge of Bengaluru Urban Development, promised them that any discrepancies would be "set right".

Jayanagar BJP MLA CK Ramamurthy raised the issue during the Question Hour in the Assembly on Tuesday. "In Jayanagar alone, 3,000-4,000 notices have been issued. Even roofs and water tanks are being taxed, as captured by drone cameras. One house has received a notice for Rs 30 lakh," Ramamurthy said.

Senior BJP lawmaker S Suresh Kumar recalled his involvement, as a councillor, in the agitation seeking a self-assessment system of taxation.

"Now, everything is being taxed with retrospective effect — setbacks, parking space and roofs. This is tax terrorism," the Rajajinagar MLA said.

Replying to this, Shivakumar said he was the first to introduce the self-assessment scheme (SAS) in the Byatarayanapura constituency when he was the urban development minister.

The drone survey is being done to identify mismatches.

"For example, people with two floors have declared only one floor," he said.

Shivakumar clarified that roofs, stairs and car parking spaces will not be taxed.

"Based on the notices that have been issued, we've estimated raising Rs 688 crore," Shivakumar said.

"If citizens file objections, municipal corporations will be instructed to set things right."

Intervening, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka asked Shivakumar to stop the drone survey and revert to physical verification.

"To file objections, citizens need to visit the website. But visiting that leads to acceptance of the tax demand," he said.

Shivakumar assured the members that all discrepancies would be resolved.

In his written reply to Ramamurthy, the minister said no additional tax or penalty was being levied.

At a glance

CORPORATION	SHOW-CAUSE NOTICE
Central	1,760
East	895
West	10,662
North	3,352
South	8,205
Total	**24,874**

B'luru West Corporation posts Rs 84-crore deficit in first year

State Finance Commission flags stark revenue gap

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

One of Bengaluru's city corporations is facing a significant financial shortfall in its first year of operation, raising questions about the viability of creating a separate municipal body that is not self-sustainable.

According to the State Finance Commission (SFC) report, the Bengaluru West City Corporation recorded a revenue deficit of Rs 84.79 crore. This shortfall could affect its ability to pay salaries, meet administrative expenses, and maintain operational costs.

In contrast, the Bengaluru East City Corporation is running a revenue surplus of around Rs 406 crore.

The three-member SFC, constituted by the government, analysed the budgets of the five city corporations to assess their financial strengths and weaknesses. The 200-page report finds that, except for the West Corporation, all other corporations have adequate surpluses.

The commission highlighted that the East City Corporation, despite having the lowest projected population (16.29 lakh), contributes the highest revenue. By comparison, the West Corporation generates the lowest revenue while serving the largest population (52.27 lakh) among all corporations.

"The magnitude of budgetary requirements for even the provision of basic services and their maintenance is significantly high in the West," the report notes, pointing to large service-level gaps.

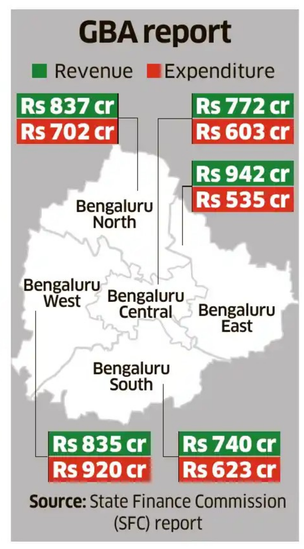
"Per capita revenue collection in the East Corporation is as high as Rs 5,780, compared with just Rs 1,601 in the West City Corporation," the report underlines. "High economic activity in the East boosts per capita revenue, whereas the West has a low revenue base due to a large residential population and limited high-tech revenue-generating activity."

The commission recommended that the West Corporation, being the largest in area and financially weak, should receive financial support from the government. It also flagged concerns about the North Corporation's finances. Recommendations include revenue deficit grants and special state infrastructure grants to ensure adequate service delivery and development in the West.

V Ravichandar, a member of the BBMP restructuring committee, said the financial situation of all five corporations is expected to improve once the elections are held.

"The corporations will receive funds from the Central Finance Commission and State Finance Commission once the elected bodies are in place," he noted, adding that the financial condition of the West Corporation is not as dire as initially feared.

Sources in the government believe the restructuring could have been planned to make all corporations self-sufficient for basic expenses, with government grants ideally reserved for infrastructure projects.



B-SMILE floats tender for ORR revamp

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) has floated tenders for the development of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) stretch between Central Silk Board and KR Puram metro station, at an estimated cost of Rs 266 crore.

The project has been divided into two packages.

According to the tender notification, the work will cover a total length of 17 km. This implies an estimated cost of roughly Rs 15.65 crore per kilometre, making it one of the most expensive road development projects in Bengaluru. By comparison, white-topping work typically costs less.

B-SMILE plans to open the bids on April 2. However, the project is likely to commence only after the ORR metro line is opened to the public.

Tunnel road proposed at Goraguntepalya to ease gridlock

ABHINAYA M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Authorities have proposed a tunnel road at Goraguntepalya Junction to ease chronic congestion along one of Bengaluru's busiest corridors.

The junction links Tumakuru Road, Yeshwantpur and Peenya Industrial Area. Commuters face daily traffic snarls, especially during peak hours.

Long delays at the signal-heavy intersection are common. Office goers, school buses, heavy vehicles and interstate transport converge at the junction, creating bottlenecks that stretch for kilometres. Residents say vehicles often take 20 to 30 minutes to cross the junction during rush hours.

The proposed tunnel road may allow traffic to bypass the signalised junction, reducing surface-level congestion. Officials believe grade separation could ease pressure on the existing road network, while commuters say an alternative route would save time.

However, many believe the project may take time to materialise, and locals remain cautiously optimistic.

Ramesh Kumar, a resident of the area, told *DH*, "Traffic here has become unbearable over the past few years. During peak hours, we are stuck for a long time. If the tunnel road reduces waiting time even by 15 or 20 minutes, it will be a big relief for daily commuters."

Office commuters, school buses and heavy vehicles choke the Goraguntepalya Junction, turning a short crossing into a 20-30 minute wait. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

Residents have also expressed concern about disruption during construction. The area is densely populated and home to several small businesses that depend on steady customer access.

Shobha N, who runs a small shop near the junction, told *DH*, "We understand that development is necessary. But we are worried about how the construction work will affect our daily business. If roads are blocked for months, it will be very difficult for shop owners like us."

Locals have also raised concerns about pedestrian safety and dust pollution during construction. The junction is frequently used by students, senior citizens and bus commuters, many of whom already struggle to cross the busy roads.

Urban mobility experts say infrastructure projects must be supported by better public transport and traffic management.

Residents say improvements in signal coordination, pedestrian facilities and bus movement should also be prioritised.

With traffic volumes rising every year, commuters say the situation at Goraguntepalya is becoming unsustainable and intervention is urgently needed.

Revision in VB timings from March 15

BENGALURU, DHNS: The timings of these Vande Bharat trains will be revised from March 15:

Train 20661 KSR Bengaluru–Dharwad: Davangere (9.30 am/9.32 am), Haveri (10.20 am/10.22 am), and Hubballi (11.15 am/11.20 am).

Train number 20662 Dharwad–KSR Bengaluru: Haveri (2.48 pm/2.50 pm), Davangere (3.33 pm/3.35 pm), and Yeshwantpur 7.21 pm/7.23 pm.

Train 26751 Belagavi–KSR Bengaluru: Haveri (8.42 am/8.44 am), Davangere (9.28 am/9.30 am), Tumakuru (12.15 pm/12.17 pm), and Yeshwantpur (1.23 pm/1.25 pm).

Train 20704 Yeshwantpur–Kacheguda: Hindupur (3.55 pm/3.57 pm).

Train 20703 Kacheguda–Yeshwantpur: Hindupur (12.17 pm/12.19 pm).

Train 22231 Kalaburagi–SMVT: Puttaparthi (11.13 am/11.15 am) and Yelahanka (12.58 pm/1 pm).

Train 22232 SMVT Bengaluru–Kalaburagi: Yelahanka (3.09 pm/3.11 pm) and Puttaparthi (4.45 pm/4.47 pm).

Train 20642 Coimbatore–Bengaluru Cantonment: Hosur (12.13 pm/12.15 pm).

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ELECTRICAL WORK

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works: **Tender No.:** SUR/TD/T/2025/29R2. **Name of work:** Electrification of Unwired pit lines/sidings of Solapur Division. (Re-invitation). **Estimated cost:** ₹ 1,53,83,701.79. **Bid Security:** ₹ 2,26,900/-, **Completion period:** 12 months. **Validity of offer:** 60 Days. **Date & time of tender closing on website:** 03.04.2026 at 15.00 hours. EXP-08

Download RailOne App for Tickets

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. BE-29-2025-26-OT-30

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
(1) Bengaluru (SBC) - Tumakuru (TK) - Sampige Road (SPGR) Section- Proposed construction of ROB at LC.No50 @KM:85/700-800 42m composite Girder **(2)** Proposed construction of RUB at LC gate No.48 @kM 81/500-600 between Mallasandra and Gubbi stations in Assistant Divisional Engineer / Yesvantpur (YPR) sub division **(3)** Bengaluru - Tumakuru - Sampige Road (SBC-TK-SPGR) Section-Proposed limited height subway at old LC43 (RUB N0.297 B) At KM:73/000-100 near Bheemasandra - RCC box of size 1x5x2.25 by rolling/ launching method **(4)** Yesvantpur (YPR) - Sampige Road (SPGR) Section-Proposed subway at old Shettyhalli gate KM 67/700-800 near Shettyhalli- (Bridge No.308-D) RCC box of size 1x4x2.25 by rolling/ launching method **(5)** Provision of Lifts at Gauribidanur (GBD) Railway station for PF-1 & PF-2&3 **(6)** Provision of two escalators (down direction) at PF-1 & PF-2&3 of Kengeri railway station (PID: 14.01.53.25. 3.50.008) **(7)** Jolarpettai (JTJ) - Bengaluru (SBC) Section- Proposed Pedestrian subways to facilitate crossing of railway alignment by cattle, pedestrians and smaller vehicles in various locations as RCC Box of size 1x5mx2.65m (Barrel length = 18.36 mtrs) by Rolling/Launching method **(8)** Bengaluru (SBC) - Sampige Road (SPGR) Section- Proposed Pedestrian subways to facilitate crossing of railway alignment by cattle, pedestrians and smaller vehicles in various locations as RCC Box of size 1x5mx2.65m (Barrel length = 18.36 mtrs) by Rolling/Launching method (total 11 Nos) **(9)** Yesvantpur (YPR) - Yelahanka (YNK) Section- Proposed pedestrian subway at Sahakara Nagara at Km 13/200-300 near NTI layout- RCC box of size 1x4x2.25 by rolling/launching method in Assistant Divisional Engineer / Yesvantpur (YPR) sub-Division **(10)** Provision of DG sets at Running Rooms and crew rest rooms over Bengaluru (SBC) Division **(11)** Improvement of illumination in tunnel (600m length) near Thippasandra (TASA) at KM 42/750 - 43/350-Electrical arrangements.	**Rs. 1,15,01,669.61**

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 31-03-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General
PUB/979/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**

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South Western Railway-SWR @SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 222-S/1/W-II, dated 06.03.2026. Following e-tenders are invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following works : **Tender No.: TN-193-25-26. Name of the Work :** (i) Renovation of Dy.CSTE/Works/SDAH's office and (ii) Balance work for renovation of Sr. DSTE, DSTE, ASTE/SDAH's chamber and Sr. DSTE's office area including staircase at 2nd floor and Signal and Telecommunication's drawing section at 3rd floor of Central Building under Sr. Section Engineer/Works/Sealdah. **Tender Value :** Rs. 54,53,359.21. **EMD:** Rs. 1,09,100/-. **Completion period for the work :** 6 months. **Date & time of closing of tenders :** 02.04.2026 at 15.00 hrs. **Date & time of opening of tender:** 02.04.2026 at 15.30 hrs. The tender document and other details are available at **www.ireps.gov.in** The bidding is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. (SDAH-432/2025-26)

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001
E-Mail Id - pdt.juidco@gmail.com, juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

NIT No.: **JUIDCO/NIT/RFP/DPR-RF/688** Date: 10.03.2026

Notice Inviting Tender
National Competitive Bidding Tender Notice

1	Name of the Work	Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Consultant for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and for providing Project Management Consultancy (PMC) services during work implementation of Roads, Flyovers, and Related Urban Transport Inf rastructure at various locations of Ranchi, Jharkhand.
2	Mode of bid submission	e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
3	Tender Fee & Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In INR)	Cost of Tender Document: Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand) only **(Non-Refundable)** Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): Rs. 6,00,000/- (Rupees Six Lakh) only **(Refundable)**
4	Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website	11.03.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.
5	Last Date/Time of Bid Submission	01.04.2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
6	Date/Time of opening of Bid	02.04.2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
9	Bid submission address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Ltd, JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi, Jharkhand- 834001
10	Helpline no.	+91651- 2225878

Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd, Ranchi

PR 374614 Urban Development and Housing(25-26)D

कार्यालय: जिला अभियंता, लातेहार

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आंमत्रण सूचना
ई0–संख्या– ZP/LATEHAR- 35/2025-26

कार्य का नाम :–

क्र	योजना का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	NIT रेफरेन्स संख्या
1	लातेहार जिला परिषद कार्यालय भवन का निर्माण।	8,08,12,524	16,16,300	10,000	11 माह	01/2025-26 /ZP/LATEHAR

1. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथिः– 12.03.2026
2. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समयः–25.03.2026, 5.00 बजे अपराहन् तक।
3. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समयः–27.03.2026 अपराहन 11:00 बजे।
4. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार परिमाण विपत्र का 02 प्रतिशत राशि अग्रधन की राशि के रूप में जमा करना होगा।
5. निविदा शुल्क की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार किया जाएगा।
6. अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जाएगा उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी।
7. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पताः– जिला अभियंता, लातेहार।
8. ई–निविदा प्रकोश्ठ का दूरभाश संख्या– 93347–02381
9. प्राक्कलित राशि बढ़ या घट सकती है।
10. उक्त निविदा में जिला परिशद, लातेहार में निबंधित समुचित श्रेणी के संवेदक निविदा में भाग ले सकते है।
11. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtendres.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

जिला अभियंता,
लातेहार

PR 374644 Rural Development (25-26)_D

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender No.: MSOT-2-2025-RT, Dy. CME/Maintenance, Rail Wheel Plant, Bela acting for and on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender through Indian Railways specialized tendering portal **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed firms based on single packet system for the under mentioned work. **1. Name of work with its location and completion period : Name of Work:** Comprehensive AMC & Cleaning of Fume Extraction System (FES) at RWP/Bela for 03 years as per scope of work **Location:** RWP/Bela, **Completion Period:** 03 Years. **2. Approx. cost of the work :** ₹2,53,70,005.00, **3. Bid security to be Deposited:** ₹2,76,900.00, **4. Tender closing date and time :** 31.03.2026 at 15:00 hrs., **5. Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. :** For full details and submission of bid tenderer/bidder may kindly visit Indian Railways specialized tendering Portal **www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderer(s)/ bidder(s) are directed to remain connected with IREPS portal **www.ireps.gov.in** for updates including Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation with respect to the above tender.

Dy. CME/Maintenance
Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2025-26/117

Jharkhand Skill Development Mission Society

Expression of Interest (EoI) to invite Apparel Industries of Jharkhand to empanel as Training Services Providers (TSPs) Solely for Placement linked Training Program under DDUKK of Mukhymantri Sarthi Yojna.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

S.No.	Reference Description	Description
1.	RFP Number	JSDM/01/2026
2.	Date of publishing of RFP	10.03.2026
3.	RFP Title	**Expression of Interest (EoI) to invite Apparel Industries of Jharkhand to empanel as Training Services Providers (TSPs) Solely for Placement linked Training Program under DDUKK of Mukhymantri Sarthi Yojna.**
4.	Availability of RFP document	Available on government e-portal: jharkhandtenders.gov.in
5.	Validity of Proposal	6 Months
6.	Cast of Tender Document	10,000/-INR
7.	EMD	2,50,000/-INR
8.	Language of the proposal	English
9.	Last date for receiving Pre-Bid queries	04.04.2026
10.	Pre-Bid Meeting	07.04.2026 at 3.00 PM
11.	Publishing of responses to Pre-Bid Queries	10.04.2026
12.	Proposal submission Last Date	20.04.2026 at 6.00PM
13.	Late Proposal submission	Late Proposal i.e., proposal received after the specified date and time of receipt will not be considered.
14.	Date, Time and venue for opening of proposal of all participants	21.04.2026, 01.00 pm at The office of Mission Director-cum-CEO, JSDMS
15.	Date of Presentation of Services Providers	Will be communicated to Technically Qualified Bidders.

Sd/- Mission Director cum CEO
Jharkhand Skill Development Mission Society
PR 374665 Labour Employment and Traning (25-26)_D

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA)
Government of India
3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan,
Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi - 110003
Ph.: 011-24695044

PUBLIC NOTICE

STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATION MEETING ON DETERMINATION OF TARIFF FOR THE AERONAUTICAL SERVICES FOR NOIDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, JEWAR FOR THE FIRST CONTROL PERIOD (01.04.2026 to 31.03.2031)

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) has issued Consultation Paper No. 07/2025-26 on 06.03.2026 (which is available on AERA website at URL **www.aera.gov.in)** w.r.t the Tariff Determination for Aeronautical Services for Noida International Airport, Jewar for the 1st Control period Tariff Cycle of five years (01.04.2026 to 31.03.2031).

In accordance with the provision of Section 13(4) of the AERA Act, 2008, the various tariff proposals of the Authority contained in the Consultation Paper, are put forth for Stakeholders' Consultation. A Stakeholders Consultation Meeting in hybrid mode (Physical/Online) in this regard is scheduled on **23rd March, 2026 (Monday) at 3:00 PM at:**

Stakeholders Room, 3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi - 110003

All stakeholders like Passengers/Passengers' Associations, General Public, Airport Operators, Airlines, Industry Associations/Bodies, Independent Service providers for Cargo, Ground Handing Fuel Farm etc., are requested to join the said meeting and give their valuable suggestions/comments/views on the aforesaid Consultation Paper on tariff proposal of Noida International Airport, Jewar.

Participants joining in person may send their confirmation to AERA by 20th March, 2026 with Name, email address, mobile number, vehicle number by email (to **director-ps@aera.gov.in** and **rajan.guptal@aera.gov.in**). Online link will be shared on AERA website **(https://aera.gov.in)** before the Stakeholders meeting under Tab "News and Announcements".

CBC 03112/12/0014/2526 **Sd/- Secretary, AERA**

ई - प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
भवन निर्माण विभाग,भवन प्रमण्डल, साहेबगंज
ई0मेल आई0डी0. exenbcd816109@gmail.com मो0 नं0– 7903452842

ई– प्रोक्योरमेन्ट नोटिस
e – Tender reference no. BCD, SAHIBGANJ/09F2/2025-26 Date- 09.03.2026

1. कार्य की विवरणी:–

क	योजना का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	बेबसाइट में ई–निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि	ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	निविदा खोलने का स्थान
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Construction of JSFC Godown 1000 MT, Udhwa, Sahebganj.	2,97,10,900/-	2,98,000/-	10,000/-	14.03.2026 (02:30 PM)	27.03.2026 (02:30 PM)	28.03.2026 (02:30 PM)	11 माह	ई– प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग, लाईन टैंक रोड़, राँची।
2	Construction of JSFC Godown 1000 MT, Mandro, Sahebganj.	2,97,12,000/-	2,98,000/-	10,000/-				11 माह	

नोटः– 1. केवल ई– निविदा ही स्वीकार किया जायेगा।
2. प्राक्कलित राशि घट बढ़ सकती है। अग्रधन की राशि परिमाण विपत्र की राशि के अनुसार होगी।
3. परिमाण विपत्र एवं EMD की राशि केवल online माध्यम से ही स्वीकार होगा। online माध्यम से किये गये भुगतान की पावति बेबसाइट पर आवश्यक रुप से अपलोड करेंगे।
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो सारी जबाबदेही संबंधित निविदादाता की होगी।
5. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर लॉग ऑन करे ।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
भवन प्रमंडल, साहेबगंज

PR 374616 Building(25-26).D

Out on parole, back in jail: Robbery plot lands prisoner in fresh trouble

Planned Magadi Road heist with 3 accomplices who posed as cops

BENGALURU, DHNS

Three men, posing as police personnel, entered a real estate businessman's house in southwestern Bengaluru, tied him up along with his wife, and robbed them of jewellery, cash and other valuables.

Real-estate businessman Hombalayya H, 53, and his wife were at their home on Magadi Road on February 16 when someone rang the bell. Checking the CCTV camera, they saw a man in a police uniform.

Believing him to be a police officer, Hombalayya opened the main door remotely.

The person introduced himself as a sub-inspector from the Yelahanka police station and said he needed to check the house's CCTV footage for a criminal investigation.

When Hombalayya said he did not know how to operate the CCTV monitor, the uniformed person claimed he also did not know and called another person to assist, as per the FIR.

When the second person arrived and pretended to operate the CCTV monitor, the uniformed person locked the house door, threatened Hombalayya with a knife, tied him up and his wife, and threatened to kill them.

The two men then robbed 677 grams of gold ornaments, Rs 20 lakh in cash and two mobile phones from the bedroom cupboard before fleeing, police said.

Following a complaint from Hombalayya, Byadarahalli police launched an investigation and arrested three men: Nagendra K, 36, from Hassan, and Sheikh Ahmed, 31, and Babajaan, 27, both from Shivamogga. The third suspect waited outside for his accomplices to finish the job.

Police said Ahmed has 20 criminal cases, and Babajaan has one.

A probe revealed that Nagendra plotted the whole operation.

Lodged in Belagavi's Hindalga Jail, Nagendra was released on parole. Facing 16 cases, including two murders, he subsequently returned to jail after the robbery.

However, police arrested him for questioning in the crime on February 20.

"During sustained interrogation, Nagendra confessed to committing the offence with two accomplices and provided information about them. He also disclosed that some of the robbed gold ornaments were kept with a friend in Shivamogga and in his residence in RR Nagar," the police said.

Police have recovered 429 grams of gold jewellery and Rs 10 lakh in cash.

Row over flat floor: Delivery agent breaks customer's nose in Koramangala

BENGALURU, DHNS: A delivery agent for a quick-commerce platform allegedly assaulted a customer at an apartment complex in Koramangala 8th Block.

Koramangala police have registered a case and launched an investigation. They are making efforts to trace the suspect, Joseph, a delivery partner with Blinkit.

Paul J Vithayathi, 27, a native of Kerala, told the police that he placed an order on Blinkit around 2 am on March 7.

The delivery agent called him and said he was on the way to deliver the items.

However, instead of going to his second-floor flat, the delivery agent allegedly went to the fourth floor. When the complainant requested him to come to the correct floor, the delivery agent allegedly picked a quarrel after coming near the flat, punched him in the face, and threw the ordered items before fleeing.

Vithayathi sustained severe injuries near the nose and lips and had profuse bleeding. Doctors told him he had fractured the nose bone in the assault.

No liquor sales on Thursday, Friday

BENGALURU, DHNS: City police have ordered a temporary ban on liquor sales around Freedom Park due to a planned protest by the Internal Reservation Struggle Committee on Thursday.

The committee has called for a large-scale demonstration against the state government's decision not to implement internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs).

Authorities have prohibited liquor sales around Freedom Park to maintain law and order. Liquor sales will be banned in all bars, restaurants and liquor outlets under the limits of the Upparpet (Majestic), KR Market, Cottonpet, Kalasipalyam and Chamarajpet police stations in the West Division, as well as the Seshadripuram, High Grounds and Halasuru Gate police stations in the Central Division.

The prohibition will be in effect from 1 am on Thursday until 10 am on Friday.

Bank, finance firm fined Rs 6.5L for failing to close credit card

Mysuru bizman gets Rs 33.8L demand despite no card use

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has ordered a bank and a finance firm to pay Rs 6.5 lakh to a customer for failing to close his credit card, and demanding nearly Rs 34 lakh despite no transactions.

In 2022, Mysuru businessman VV Venkatesh Babu filed a consumer complaint against Standard Chartered Bank and Shaha Finlease for failing to close his credit card despite a request made 12 years earlier.

Babu said he did not use the credit card even once since its issuance. When he sought closure in 2010, the bank demanded Rs 15,500, which he paid.

In 2022, the bank issued him a legal notice, demanding Rs 33,83,173. Babu filed a complaint before the Bangalore District Consumer Commission, which, in 2024, ordered Standard Chartered Bank and Shaha Finlease to pay him Rs 1 lakh as compensation.

However, Babu approached the state commission, stating that the compensation was inadequate for the harassment caused by the bank, the damage to his CIBIL score, and the rejection of his loans.

He also hired advocate Abhishek MR to argue his case.

The state commission agreed that the Rs 1-lakh compensation was insufficient.

On February 12, 2026, it enhanced the compensation to Rs 5 lakh and ordered the respondents to pay an additional Rs 1 lakh as lawyer fee and Rs 50,000 towards litigation expenses.

The respondents have been directed to pay Rs 6.5 lakh within 30 days of the order. In case of failure, the amount shall carry 9 per cent interest till realisation.

RBI on card closure

On April 21, 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a guideline stating that the credit card issuer must honour request to close within seven working days, ensuring the cardholder cleared all dues.

Post closure, they must inform the cardholder of the status either by email or text or similar mode.

Cardholders can submit the closure request via multiple channels such as the helpline, dedicated email, Interactive Voice Response (IVR), a prominently visible link on the website, internet banking, mobile app or any other mode.

The card issuer cannot insist on sending a closure request by post or other means that may cause delays.

If card issuers fail to complete the account closure process within seven working days, they will incur a penalty of Rs 500 per calendar day of delay payable to the cardholder until the account is closed, provided there is no outstanding balance.

Rajasthan man arrested for burgling Rs 3-cr jewellery from Yelahanka house

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police have arrested a 19-year-old man from Rajasthan for allegedly burgling diamond and gold jewellery worth about Rs 3 crore from a house in north Bengaluru.

The accused, Velaram Meena alias Sunil, a resident of Salumbar district in Rajasthan, allegedly broke into a house in Judicial Layout in Yelahanka through the terrace door on February 15 and stole diamond and gold jewellery.

The house had been rented by a couple. While the husband works in the US, the wife stays in Bengaluru and visits him every six months.

The couple's nephew filed a police complaint.

During the investigation, police traced Meena to his village under the Gingla police station limits in Rajasthan. He was detained there and brought to Bengaluru on a transit warrant.

"During interrogation, the accused confessed to stealing diamond and gold jewellery in this case. He also revealed that the stolen jewellery had been kept at his residence," police said in a statement.

1.833 kg of jewellery

Police recovered about 1.833 kg of diamond and gold jewellery from his possession.

A Bengaluru court has remanded him in judicial custody.

Meena works as a tile worker, police said.

Five held for house theft

BENGALURU, DHNS: Banashankari police have arrested five people allegedly involved in a house theft case and recovered 589 grams of gold jewellery, 1.126 kg of silver articles, a car, and three two-wheelers, all collectively worth Rs 1.26 crore.

The accused have been identified as Raghu alias Pepsi, 25; Likhith V, 23, from Andhra Pradesh; Mithun alias Milky, 22, from Bengaluru; Puneeth N, 34, a gold and silver trader from Bengaluru; and Puneeth alias Handi, 19, a delivery boy.

Police said they were from different parts of Bengaluru and were unemployed.

Based on a complaint about a house break-in, Banashankari police launched an investigation and first arrested one of the suspects near the Yelahanka railway station. During interrogation, the suspect revealed details about the others involved, leading to their arrest.

Police said that except Puneeth N and Handi, the others had multiple criminal cases registered against them. Raghu and Mithun alone were allegedly involved in 36 and 22 previous cases, respectively.

RPF rescues runaway children; cracks down on ticket touting, seizes drugs

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) rescued 51 children under 'Operation Nanhe Farishte' in the South Western Railway (SWR) jurisdiction in February.

The force also recovered and returned passengers' lost belongings worth Rs 44.8 lakh, arrested three individuals, and seized narcotics worth Rs 2.71 lakh.

Additionally, tickets worth Rs 1.75 lakh were seized under 'Operation Uplabdh' to tackle illegal ticket touting.

Under 'Operation Nanhe Farishte', the RPF reunited 51 children — 39 boys and 12 girls — with their families. These children had been separated from their families for various reasons.

Under 'Operation Dignity', the RPF rescued an elderly woman and handed her over to her family.

Under the 'Meri Saheli' initiative, RPF personnel ensured safe travel for single and unaccompanied female passengers. Their seat and berth details were shared with station RPF teams for real-time monitoring and assistance, and feedback was collected at destination stations. A total of 32 trains are covered under this initiative.

Under 'Operation Uplabdh' to curb black-marketing of train tickets, RPF personnel conducted checks at travel agencies and other locations across Karnataka and Goa. They arrested 23 touts in 23 cases under Section 143 of the Railways Act. A total of 48 live tickets valued at Rs 77,804 and 65 used tickets worth Rs 97,496 were seized.

Under 'Operation Satark', the RPF recovered 142 liquor bottles worth Rs 63,346 and handed them over to the Excise Department.

Under 'Operation Narco', 57 kg of ganja valued at Rs 2.71 lakh was seized and three suspects were arrested. The contraband was later handed over to the GRP and excise authorities for further action.

RPF personnel also recovered passengers' misplaced or items left behind such as laptops, mobile phones and ornaments worth Rs 44.8 lakh and returned them to their rightful owners.

About 95 RPF personnel escorted an average of 32–35 express and special trains per day across the SWR zone.

Under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966, the RPF registered cases against seven offenders and recovered stolen railway property worth Rs 38,458.

Key highlights

Operation Nanhe Farishte
- **51 children** rescued and reunited with families **(39 boys, 12 girls)**

Operation Dignity
- **1 elderly woman** rescued and handed over to her family.

Meri Saheli initiative
- **Safety support** for single/unaccompanied women passengers. Monitoring across 32 trains.

Operation Uplabdh
- Crackdown on illegal ticket touting; **23 touts** arrested in 23 cases; 113 tickets worth **Rs 1.75 lakh** seized.

Operation Satark
- **142 liquor bottles** worth **Rs 63,346** seized.

Operation Narco
- **57 kg ganja** worth **Rs 2.71 lakh** seized; 3 suspects arrested.

The arms and ammunition recovered by the police.
PHOTO: BENGALURU POLICE

CCB arrests rowdies with pistol, live ammo

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Central Crime Branch (CCB) of the Bengaluru police has arrested two rowdy sheeters for illegally possessing firearms and live ammunition.

The arrested are Nagendra and Mohammed Ahmed Khan alias Suhail Khan.

Police said that on March 3, one of the suspects, who had been absconding and failing to appear before the court, was arrested at an apartment on Bannerghatta Road. Police recovered two pistols and three live bullets from him without a valid licence.

"During interrogation, the accused revealed that the pistols had been sold to him by another rowdy-sheeter from the Udayagiri police station in another state. Based on this information, the interstate rowdy-sheeter was also apprehended.

"The HAL police station rowdy-sheeter had been absconding for the past seven years and had failed to appear before the court in connection with four warrants/proclamations issued by various courts in Bengaluru.

"Similarly, the rowdy-sheeter from the Udayagiri police station had been absconding for the past five years and had failed to appear before the court in connection with seven warrants/proclamations issued by various courts in Mysuru," the police said in a statement.

Avenues

JOB OPENINGS

NGSM Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Deralakatte, Mangaluru, a constituent college of Nitte (Deemed to be University), duly recognized by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Pharmacy Council of India (PCI), New Delhi, invites applications for the following positions:

Associate/ Assistant Professors in:
- Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- Pharmacology
- Pharmacy Practice
- Pharmaceutics
- Pharmacognosy

Qualification: MPharm, PhD

Lab Technicians (for the above 5 specialisations)

Qualification: DPharm

Candidates may email their application with bio-data to the Principal at **principal.ngsmips@nitte.edu.in** with a copy to **hr@nitte.edu.in**

NITTE (Deemed to be University) | NGSM INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES
Paneer, Kotekar-Beeri Road, Deralakatte, Mangaluru - 575 018
+91-824-2203991/2203992

SJMU
Enlightment is a Precious Ornaments

SRI JAGADGURU MURUGHARAJENDRA UNIVERSITY (SJMU)
(ESTABLISHED UNDER THE KARNATAKA STATE PRIVATE UNIVERSITY ACT)
CHITRADURGA, KARNATAKA

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

Sri Jagadguru Murugharajendra University (SJMU), Chitradurga invites applications from qualified, experienced, and dynamic candidates for the following Administrative and Non-Teaching positions for SJM University Secretariat.

Finance & Accounts	•Finance Officer •Asst Finance Officer
Human Resource & Personnel Management	•Human Resource (HR) Officer / HR Manager •Public Relations Officer (PRO)
Secretarial & Support Services	•Stenographers / Personal Assistants •Establishment Section Assistants
Administrative & Clerical Work	•Administrative Assistants •Office Assistants / Clerical Staff
Front Office & Communication	•Receptionist / Telephone Operator

- Salary Commensurate with qualification and experience and as per SJMU Norms
- Shortlisted candidate shall be called for the interaction
- Applications must reach the University within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

For further details and application form
log on to our website/scan QR
www.SJMU.EDU.IN
Phone No: 08194200530

Sd/- Registrar

WANTED

Public help sought to identify woman accused in property fraud

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Byatarayanapura sub-division police have issued a public notice, seeking help to identify a woman accused in a property fraud case.

Police said the accused woman allegedly impersonated the owner of an immovable property and fraudulently transferred it to another accused through a registered sale deed using forged documents in 2022.

Jawaramma, the real owner, died in 2014 after executing a gift deed in her son's name. A senior police officer said that, based on a complaint by Chandrashekar BS, the RR Nagar police registered a case on charges of criminal conspiracy, impersonation and forgery.

During the investigation, officials found the name, address and other details provided by the woman to be false. Only her photograph and thumb impression, submitted at the time of registering the sale deed, are available with the police. As the court has asked the police to produce the accused, they have sought public help.

The lookout notice issued by the police.

Recognise her? Contact police

The notice, issued by Bharat S Reddy, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Byatarayanapura Sub-Division, urged members of the public who recognise the woman in the photograph to contact the ACP office on Mysuru Road or call 080-22942151 or 9480801706.

Four, including three interstate suspects, held for drug peddling

BENGALURU, DHNS: In sustained efforts, Bengaluru police have arrested four people, including three interstate suspects, for allegedly peddling drugs.

Separate cases were registered at the Mahadevapura, KG Halli and Malleswaram police stations. Authorities recovered 37.4 kg of ganja, 33 grams of hydro ganja, and 23.19 grams of MDMA, valued at Rs 24.12 lakh and said to be worth Rs 48.24 lakh in the open market.

"Based on credible information received from informants on different dates, police officers and staff came to know that banned narcotic substances such as ganja, hydro ganja and MDMA were being sold within the limits of the Mahadevapura, KG Halli and Malleswaram police stations," the police said in a statement.

"Acting on this information, cases were registered under the NDPS Act at the respective police stations. Subsequently, raids were conducted at the locations identified by the informants, and a total of four people, including three interstates accused, were arrested on different dates."

During interrogation, the arrested suspects said their sole intention was to make quick money. They said they purchased the narcotics from unknown people from other states and sold them to college students and other customers here.

Interstate suppliers

Efforts are on to trace the interstate suppliers who were providing the banned narcotic substances to the accused.

All four were produced before the courts on different dates and remanded to judicial custody.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Workshop: State-level consultation workshop to formulate Karnataka MSME Policy 2026; Kasiya Auditorium, 3rd floor, near Hosahalli metro station, Vijayanagar; 10.30 am.

Travel and Tourism Exhibition: Minister HK Patil to attend; Union Ministry of Tourism; Tripura Vasini, Palace Grounds; 11 am.

CULTURAL

Telugu and Kannada Translation Meet: Kuvempu Bhasha Bharati Authority; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 10.30 am.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Mainly clear sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.6°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	38%
Sunset (Mar 11)	6:30 pm
Sunrise (Mar 12)	6:30 am
Moonrise	--:--
Moonset	10:57 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Initiative to support comic book creators launched

It aims to offer funding and legal aid, and consolidate India's scattered comic scene

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

A non-profit trust has been formed to make comic book culture mainstream in India. The initiative comes close on the heels of the Centre announcing plans to strengthen the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) sector, or the orange economy, in the 2026 budget.

The Comic Book Trust of India is based in New Delhi, with Jatin Varma, founder of Comic Con India, serving as its chief trustee. According to him, Bengaluru stands as one of the country's top three comic book hubs. He names Rahil Mohsin, co-founder of the Dakhni motion comic series 'Hallubol', Prasad Bhat of Graphicurry, and Mohammed Ali Vakil and Mohammed Arif Vakil, the duo behind Sufi Comics, as some of the city's most exciting talents.

The trust aims to increase the output of comic books, while addressing the systemic lack of physical distribution. "Currently, only 20-30 comic books are published in India every year, and fewer than 100 people are actively creating comics," says Varma.

He says a much larger number of people are self-publishing or producing webcomics, but they remain largely undocumented. Thus, the trust plans to map the Indian comic book ecosystem, including market size, creator demographics, and readership trends.

Offering financial grants to creators is another focus area. Producing a comic book of 100 pages can cost Rs 4-5 lakh. The amount covers the artist, inker and letterer, among others. They also plan to run courses on comic book creation, provide pro bono legal support to help creators safeguard intellectual property, and organise annual awards to recognise talent.

Varma's dream is to see Indian comics for all age groups readily available in bookstores, even at airports. But he admits this is a lofty goal. Despite legacy publishers such as Amar Chitra Katha, Raj Comics and Diamond Comics, comics are still not widely popular in India. He attributes this to the broader lack of reading culture, and the perception that comics are meant only for kids. But the Indian government's growing recognition of the AVGC sector as a form of "soft power", a domain traditionally dominated by films, gives him hope. Last year, the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies opened in Mumbai. Varma likens it to the IIT of content creation.

Visit tcbtindia.org

IISC COMIC OUT

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, recently launched a comic in association with Amar Chitra Katha. Titled 'The Crucible of Indian Science', it is available for Rs 100 in English, Kannada and Hindi. To order a copy, write to iiscpress@iisc.ac.in

Over 50 comic book creators displayed their works at the Indie Comix Fest on M G Road last November.

POPCORN

True lies

The 301st rank in the UPSC exams was won by a girl called Akanksha Singh. So a studious looking Akanksha Singh, a resident of Bihar, went to town, talking to the media, displaying appropriate modesty ('I am humbled'), and acknowledging her grandfather as her inspiration. Turns out another Akanksha Singh, an MBBS, was the one who had cleared the exams. Doctor says her namesake's claim was doctored. Who's the impostor? Uh, check which one has a certificate in Entire (fill in appropriate subject) Science.

Diaspora recalls B'luru days of Nepal PM-elect Shah

Shah's city-based sister and old friends share their thoughts on the youth leader

PUSHKAR V
TEAM METROLIFE

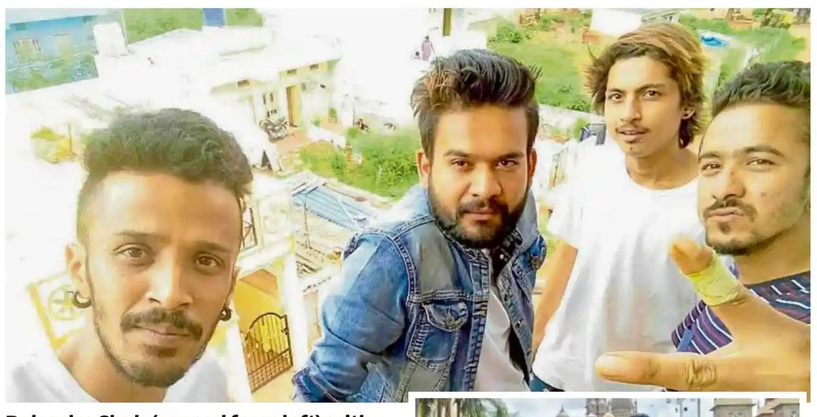
In a quiet neighbourhood near Mysuru Road, the rise of Balendra Shah has become a deeply personal story for one household — that of his elder sister Sujata Sejekan. Shah is set to become the Himalayan nation's next prime minister.

"It still feels unreal. I'm a very proud sister. He is my inspiring little brother who has worked very hard and proved himself to the world," said Sujata, speaking exclusively to *Metrolife*. Sujata, an artist, lives with her husband Harish Kumar Sejekan, an entrepreneur and art connoisseur.

Shah's achievement has sparked conversations across Nepali homes and community groups in Bengaluru. It is estimated that over 1 lakh Nepalis live in the city. They include students, white-collar professionals and blue-collar workers. Their numbers are not restricted to security personnel and service staff. Many of the migrants are from the western parts of Nepal, which are considered less developed than the eastern region.

Community members estimate that nearly 10,000 Nepalis from the city made their journey back home to cast their vote during the recent elections.

Nikesh Bhandari, a 32-year-old HR executive, said the election reflected a clear generational divide. Bhandari, a third-generation migrant, said younger voters were drawn to Shah's message of change. "The elders in my house support the older politicians while the younger generation vouches for Balen," he told *Metrolife*. For him, the biggest issue remains employment.



Balendra Shah (second from left) with his friends during his college days in Bengaluru. The photo was taken around 2018. (Right) Shah with his wife Sabina Kafle (fourth from left), sister Sujata Sejekan (second from left) and brother-in-law Harish Sejekan in Mysuru.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

According to Kalpana, a 29-year-old domestic worker from South Bengaluru, "the win brings hope of new jobs and fewer people will opt to migrate".

Holding out hope

Many young Nepalis in Bengaluru say they understand that change will take time.

"We don't expect change overnight but we have hope," Bhandari said, and added, "If we have good education, industries and job opportunities, fewer people will want to move to other countries."

Shah's journey has also surprised people who remember him from very different spaces. Arjun Thapa, 32, co-owner of an events management company, said Shah's is a familiar name in Nepali youth circles. Thapa manages the Nepalis in Bangalore Facebook group, which has over 23,000 followers.

"Balen and his friends would post their gig invites on our group, back when he lived in Bengaluru," Thapa said, and added, "It's unimaginable that today he is about to become the prime minister of Nepal."

However, some community members expressed caution. Older members trust experienced leaders. They worry that the high expectations will be hard to fulfil by a new political figure.

"How can someone so young and into rapping be taken seriously? This is a dangerous gamble," said 54-year-old Meghna Ki (name changed), a resident of Ramachandrapuram.

Sarita Devi, 70, who lives along Nandidurga Road, also believes the real test lies ahead. "There is a difference between winning an election and running a government," she said. "Balen Shah and his party are new to politics. Yes, the greenhorns bring energy and a seemingly clear mandate, but also the weight of Gen Z expectations on their shoulders," she added

Favourite city haunts

Over the years, Shah's family has spent many holidays travelling together across Karnataka and neighbouring states. "Balen loves Nandi Hills. We also visited Mysuru Palace and Madikeri together recently," Harish recalled.

Shah's favourite haunts in Bengaluru include neighbourhoods like Indiranagar and Basavanagudi. Sometimes they visit Kommaghatta Lake to watch migratory birds.

Shah spent two years in the city while pursuing his M Tech in structural engineering at Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology, Yelahanka. He reportedly scored a CGPA above nine. Sujata believes those years shaped his thinking about infrastructure and development.

"He will blend traditional Nepali construction methods with the modern methods he learnt in Bengaluru, for earthquake-proof construction. Nepal sees a high level of seismic activity," she said.

For her, however, the public image of a political leader still sits beside a much simpler memory.

"No matter if he is prime minister or mayor, he will always be my beloved younger brother who is always full of surprises," Sujata told *Metrolife*.

Puttenahalli Lake is visited by over 100 species of birds. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Scientists slam new lake buffer rule

Following a KTCDA amendment, the areas will depend on the size of the lake

SATHVI G BHAT
TEAM METROLIFE

A Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA) amendment recently slashed the buffer zones around lakes from a uniform 30 metres. The new sizes depend on the area covered by the lake. The buffer zone for a lake that is 5 guntas to 1 acre, is now 3 metres, and for a lake of 10-25 acres, 12 metres, for instance.

Experts and activists have labelled the new rule unscientific and explain that it poses serious risks to ecological balance and could cause flooding.

"The idea of a size-based buffer is not scientific because the size of the lake and the impact it has on the environment are not comparable. It differs from lake to lake," said Shashank Palur, a hydrologist at WELL (Water, Environment, Land and Livelihoods) Labs, a not-for-profit that works in the field of ecology and environment.

Ecologist T V Ramachandra of IISc noted that smaller lakes play a more vital role, and hence the buffer zones around these waterbodies are crucial. "Smaller lakes meet the local water requirement. And like large lakes, smaller lakes also recharge groundwater," he stated.

Buffer zones around lakes serve essential ecological functions. The reduction of buffer zones hinders these functions. "The buffer zones help with water percolation and act as filters. The floodplain around a lake acts as a sponge and mitigates floods. With Bengaluru facing flooding during the monsoons, this new rule makes the city more vulnerable," Ramachandra elaborated.

REALITY CHECK

Metrolife visited some of the lakes to take a look at the status of the buffer zones.

Agara Lake

The Agara Lake is lined with a row of trees of different species. The water body is visited by flocks of different birds, as indicated by the 'Birds of Agara' board. The lake also has a line of constructed wetland that treats industrial waste, sewage and storm water. The 80-acre stretch of lake has an adjoining park with a walking trail, exercise equipment and a children's playground.

Puttenahalli Lake

Puttenahalli Lake spans a mere 13 acres, but has a walking trail and birdwatching spot. It is home to 80 tree species, and over 100 bird species have been spotted here. The rich biological environment also draws dozens of insect visitors like butterflies and dragonflies. The Puttenahalli Neighbourhood Lake Improvement Trust, in charge of maintaining the lake, has also released a detailed digital documentation of the lake's flora and fauna on their website puttenahallilake.in

Madiwala Lake

One of the largest in the city, Madiwala Lake spans 270 acres in area. It has a 2 km walking trail and attracts waterbirds like grey heron looking for fish, and glossy ibis that take dips in the water. The water is dotted with water hyacinth, which serve as rest stops for the birds. The area around the lake is occupied by fruit-bearing trees and tabebuia blossoms around this time of the year.

All lakes face threats posed by sewage run-off and industrial waste. Experts say authorising construction within the sensitive buffer zones will only aggravate these issues.

Class 10 student makes game to promote road safety among kids

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

A 14-year-old from Rajajinagar has developed an online game to promote road safety among children. A role-playing game, Roadyz places players in everyday road scenarios where they must navigate traffic and obstacles. As they progress in the game, they earn safety gear like helmets and reflective jackets. It will be tested in five city schools and is expected to be released by July.

Surya Uthkarsha was six years old when he and his family met with an accident. His father had tried to veer their car to avoid hitting a buffalo on a highway near Shivamogga. While Uthkarsha was unharmed, his parents and sister suffered injuries to the spine, shoulder and jaw. The incident inspired him to start The Marg Initiative, a road safety education movement, in 2024. Today, the volunteer-driven effort has chapters in Thrissur, Agra, Delhi, Gurugram and Mumbai in India, as well as in Qatar and the UAE, with volunteers aged 12 to 18.

Surya Uthkarsha (inset) created 'Roadyz' in two months.

The Bengaluru chapter has conducted several activities, including interactive sessions in schools and orphanages. "We present slideshows of different road situations and ask children what they would do. We then discuss which actions would be safer," says the Class 10 student. In some sessions, volunteers recreate road environments using cones and props to help children understand pedestrian behaviour, traffic signals and emergency responses.

In December, the team distributed more than 150 reflective jackets to night-shift workers such as hotel staff and valets to improve their visibility to motorists. To reach a wider audience, they have also partnered with events such as the Bengaluru Midnight Marathon to spread awareness.

With support from GBA, the team has also taken up footpath clean-up drives to improve pedestrian safety. "We have cleared footpaths in areas such as Sadashivanagar, Rajajinagar and Malleswaram in the past six months, and are planning 15 more drives this summer," he says.

For details or to volunteer, visit @marginitiative on Instagram, or write to suryauthkarsha@gmail.com

EVENTS

Book launch
Indira Lankesh Prakashana will release a three-volume book and an audiobook of P Lankesh's stories on March 15, 11 am, at Kondajji Basappa Hall, Ambedkar Veedhi, Shanthi Nagar. It is titled 'Teeke-Tippani'.

Theatre
The Kannada comedy play 'Parahita Paashaana', directed by Prakash Belawadi, will be staged on March 12, 7 pm, at Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte. Call 94498 50802.

Sitar concert
Musician Rishab Rikhiram Sharma will perform as part of his 'Sitar for Mental Health India Tour' on March 15, 8 pm, at District Arena, Terraform, Yelahanka. Tickets online.

Political film
'The Battle Royale', a documentary on Mahua Moitra's re-election campaign in the hotly contested Krishnanagar constituency, will be screened on March 12, 6.30 pm, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. RSVP to bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Niche hobby communities gain ground in city

The puzzle-solving meetups can last about three hours.
PIC CREDIT: PLAYFUL PURSUITS

These meetups focus on puzzles, mapping, and foraging, among other activities

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

From piecing together jigsaw puzzles to foraging for mushrooms and swimming in open waters, niche hobby groups in Bengaluru are bringing together people with unusual interests. *Metrolife* speaks to a few such communities that are creating spaces for learning, exploration, and social interaction. Entry fees for these groups range from Rs 200 to about Rs 1,400.

Jigsaw puzzles

Playful Pursuits began informally during the pandemic as a WhatsApp group where members discussed the puzzles they were solving. It was officially launched in 2021 by Asma Tajuddin and now has about 1,200 members across the country, including around 500 in Bengaluru. The community meets offline at least three times a week. Weekday sessions are held in Indiranagar, while weekend meetups take place at different locations depending on demand.

Participants are given puzzles ranging from 100 to 1,000 pieces, with varying difficulty levels. Members not only compete informally but also prepare for events such as the World Jigsaw Puzzle Championship in Italy.

Visit @playful.pursuits on Instagram.

Finding mushroom

Nuvedo was created as a community for people interested in mycology, the study and appreciation of mushrooms. Founded in 2021, the group conducts workshops, foraging walks and mushroom cultivation courses, to allow enthusiasts to explore everything from growing mushrooms to cooking with them. Co-founder Prithvi K says they host foraging walks during the monsoons, in biodiverse areas such as Bannerghatta and Cubbon Park. "Some members have also gone on to start their own mushroom farms," she adds.

Visit nuvedo.com for details.

Open water swimming

The Openwater Swim Tribe, co-founded by Rana Ghosh, began during the pandemic when access to swimming pools was limited and swimmers started heading to nearby lakes. As more people discovered a passion for open water swimming, the community grew steadily. Today, the group meets every alternate Sunday at locations about 60 km outside the city. To ensure safety, lifeguards and rescue rafts are present during swim sessions.

"We have had participants from ages seven to 71. The only criterion for joining is that one should be able to swim a 500-metre lap in a six-foot-deep pool," says Ghosh.

Visit openwaterswimtribe.com

Data visualisation

VizChitra explores the art and science of data visualisation and mapping. It was launched at a data visualisation conference in the city in June 2024. Since then, the community has worked on projects such as mapping the sounds of Cubbon Park and documenting the trees of Indiranagar. "These sessions allow members to collaborate, share ideas and refine their visualisation techniques," says a volunteer with the group's Bengaluru chapter. VizChitra also has chapters in Delhi and Mumbai.

Visit vizchitra.com

Hooping group

Spinfinity is a forum for people interested in learning and practising flow and fire arts. Founder Aditi Bhat teaches hula hooping and poi, and sometimes uses these arts to explain concepts in mathematics and physics. After facing a ban on hoola hooping meetups in Cubbon Park, the community is now scattered across the city. Members stay connected via a WhatsApp group.

Check @spinfinity.adt on Instagram.

Siddaramaiah has borrowed the most among CMs from 1998 to 2025: Ashoka

LoP flags diversion of SC/ST funds towards other schemes

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka on Tuesday dubbed the 2026-27 State Budget tabled by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah a 'credit card' budget that was surviving on the oxygen of 'loans'.

Participating in a discussion on the budget, Ashoka remarked that, of all the CMs who had been in office between 1998 and 2025, Siddaramaiah had borrowed the most – Rs 4.36 lakh crore. B S Yediyurappa's borrowing stood at Rs 1.63 lakh crore, while the sum was Rs 67,000 crore for Basavaraj Bommai and Rs 1.01 lakh crore for H D Kumaraswamy, he said.

"When he was the leader of the Opposition, Siddaramaiah batted for using loans to create assets. Now, show me one dam or a big project that you have completed in the past three years. So far, only 59.43% of the budgetary allocation has been expended, while nearly 41% remains unused. Why has the government not released all the money?" asked Ashoka.

Pointing out that Karnataka's outstanding loans totalled Rs 6.65 lakh crore, Ashoka said, "Fiscal deficit for 2026-27 is projected at Rs 1.16 lakh crore, which is 2.95% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). The state's debt-GSDP ratio has crossed the 25% threshold, and the government is relying on loans for its expenditure, particularly to finance its guarantee schemes. Over the past three years, the state has accrued a debt of Rs 82,000 crore per year, and is paying Rs 5.2 crore per hour in interest."

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka speaks in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

Alleging that Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) funds were being misused, Ashoka said, "Looting funds from SC/STs cannot be social justice. Of the Rs 1.56 lakh crore allocated, only Rs 30,000 crore is left for SCP/TSP after money is diverted for the five guarantee schemes, and unrelated initiatives such as tiger conservation (Rs 3.12 crore), IT policy (Rs 10.04 crore), maintenance of healthcare institutions' buildings (Rs 9.37 crore), Ayush College (Rs 3.7 crore) and Sanjay Gandhi Hospital (Rs 4 crore). At the end of January, only Rs 16,699 crore was released towards SCP/TSP, of which only Rs 15,391 crore was spent. Act against errant officials."

Pointing to the list of pending bills, which totalled Rs 75,689 crore – Rs 38,000 crore unpaid dues to contractors, Rs 12,500 crore to ESCOMs and Rs 4,250 crore to transport corporations, among others – Ashoka added, "But the chief minister is still claiming fiscal discipline. He has announced many projects but funded none. The departments have failed to spend even the allocated money to fund guarantees."

UG, PG courses with poor admissions in last 3 yrs face the axe

Major chunk of out-of-demand courses in arts stream

BENGALURU DHNS

The government is planning to discontinue the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes that have failed to attract students for the last three years, including those that had single digit admissions for consecutive three years.

Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar mentioned this in the Council, in reply to a question (un-starred) by K Vivekananda of the JD(S).

The minister said, "We are assessing the process to discontinue the courses which are not in demand anymore. Basically, those courses recorded single digit or zero admissions in the last 3 years."

As per details provided by the minister, course combinations which are not opted for by students are in all streams, including arts, science and commerce.

As much as 80% of the government degree colleges and university departments are not getting students for some of the course combinations.

This includes MA in English, Kannada, Sociology, Political Science, Economics, MSc in Mathematics, Physics and a few courses in Commerce. At the undergraduate level, combinations like History-Kannada-Psychology, Kannada-Political Science-History, Economics-History-Kannada, Journalism-History-Economics and English-Journalism-Psychology have few takers.

"The courses and subject combinations which have no demand vary from college to college. The idea is to discontinue the courses in two levels, one in general for a few courses at the state level by stopping affiliation and admissions. Another, by discontinuing admissions at the particular college level," said an official from the department.

"Not just colleges, even postgraduate departments in universities are facing the problem. It is mainly because of students showing interest in pursuing professional courses," said the official.

As shared by the official, courses with no demand or less demand are in arts stream and it is because of the declining trend to study arts subjects at the pre-university level.

SESSION SNIPPETS

Realtor murder: CID to probe, says HM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday said the CID will probe the alleged kidnapping and murder of a real estate businessman from Anekal whose body was found in Tamil Nadu on March 9. Parameshwara said this in the Assembly while replying to Chikballapur Congress MLA Pradeep Eshwar during Zero Hour. "The police have already taken action. One person has been arrested, and a search is on for others. Based on the initial reports, I've instructed that the case be handed over to the CID," Parameshwara said.

Drinking water: 'Govt taking proactive measures'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rural Department & Panchyat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge said on Tuesday that drinking water shortages have been reported in 183 villages across 144 taluks in 21 districts. The government has initiated proactive measures ahead of summer, the minister said in a statement. District administrations have been instructed to closely monitor the situation and take immediate measures, including hiring private borewells on a rental basis and supplying water through tankers wherever required, he said. In March 2026, approximately 1,053 borewells are expected to be repaired. In emergencies, new borewells will also be drilled wherever necessary, he said.

Rs 50K pension sought for acid attack survivors

Parameshwara assures housing for victims

BENGALURU, DHNS

Home Minister G Parameshwara assured the Legislative Council on Tuesday that he would impress upon Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to increase the monthly pension for acid attack survivors from Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000.

He also pointed out that Rs 5 lakh can be provided as a grant to the survivors instead of a loan.

"These incidents that make society hang its head in shame must be prevented," he said.

The home minister added that the reason for the low conviction rate in these cases would be studied.

He also assured that the government would provide houses to these acid attack survivors.

The discussion began when MLC K Shivakumar raised the issue of around 165 survivors of acid attacks in the state, and sought social security for them.

"Only 40-45 of the 165 victims have received the Rs 2 lakh compensation. The monthly pension of Rs 3,000 was increased to Rs 10,000, but only 30-35 people are getting it. When they try to claim it, officials seek the UDID number, FIR copy, etc. In such cases where they can't see, the body is burnt, and they spend months in hospitals, surviving itself is a big thing. From where will they bring these documents?"

Labour Minister Santosh Lad announced on the floor of the House that a compensation of up to Rs 2 lakh (based on the extent of burns) would be provided to the victims by the Labour Department.

KC Valley: JD(S) MLA triggers debate on water quality

BENGALURU, DHNS

Mulbagal JD(S) MLA Samruddhi Manjunath on Tuesday displayed a bottle containing discoloured water, triggering a debate on the Koramangala-Challaghatta (KC) Valley project of treating Bengaluru's sewage to fill up tanks in Kolar and Chikkaballapur.

During Question Hour, Manjunath demanded tertiary treatment of water under the KC Valley project.

Minor Irrigation Minister N S Boseraju said that the project envisaged only secondary treatment to improve groundwater tables. "Groundwater tables had plummeted 1,500 feet. Now, they've improved and water is available at 250-300 feet. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) is giving us reports on the quality of water," he said.

Displaying two bottles of water, Manjunath accused the Congress government of supplying bad water to Kolar and Chikkaballapur. "The bottle with clear water is Cauvery that (Deputy Chief Minister) D K Shivakumar gives Bengaluru. The other bottle is what we get," he said. "You are poisoning our children."

Mulbagal JD(S) MLA Samruddhi Manjunath displays a bottle containing discoloured water, which he claims was being supplied to Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts under KC Valley project, and a bottle of Cauvery water, in the Legislative Assembly session, on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

SAMRUDDHI MANJUNATH
MLA, Mulbagal

"The bottle with clear water is Cauvery that (Deputy Chief Minister) D K Shivakumar gives Bengaluru. The other bottle is what we get. "You are poisoning our children.

Intervening, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda slammed the JD(S) MLA for "political propaganda". He said the government was ready to improve the project based on recommendations by "genuine" scientific institutions.

"In 2006, Kolar was promised Bhadra water, which never came. We've given a solution to address a dire situation," Gowda said, adding that UN and World Bank chiefs had lauded the KC Valley project. "All scientific parametres are being met. The IISc does tests every three months. Spreading political propaganda serves no public interest," he said.

Food & Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa, a former Kolar MP, urged the government to convene a meeting of lawmakers from Kolar, Chikkaballapur and Bengaluru Rural districts as well as experts from the IISc. "The project involves filling up tanks with secondary-treated water. For drinking water, tertiary treatment is required. In Israel, tertiary treatment is being done. For drinking water, the government is implementing the Yettinahole project and every village will be covered by 2027," he said.

Panchayat polls: Bill moved to replace EVMs with paper ballots

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Congress government introduced Tuesday a Bill in the Assembly to do away with electronic voting machines (EVM) and use paper ballots for elections to rural local bodies.

The Bill will amend the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act ahead of the impending elections to zilla and taluk panchayats this year. The government has already decided to switch back to paper ballots instead of EVMs for elections to five municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

"The decision of the government to revert to paper ballots for local body elections, in response to concerns about EVM credibility and voter privacy, reflects a growing consensus on the need to strengthen electoral mechanisms that prioritise anonymity and transparency," the Bill states.

"...some concerns have been raised, regarding functioning of EVMs, necessitating a return to the robust secret ballot paper system to restore public trust," the Bill states.

In the Bill, the government has cited the Supreme Court case of Kuldip Nayar vs Union of India (2006) on the secrecy of ballots being essential for elections to ensure voter autonomy.

Other bills

The government proposes to establish a Karnataka Manuscripts Authority under the Karnataka Jnana Bhandar Manuscripts and Digitisation Bill, which was introduced. The Authority will survey, document, conserve, digitise, research and publish manuscripts.

The Karnataka Lokayuka (Amendment) Bill was introduced to make a provision for allowances and other service conditions of the Lokayukta to be on par with Supreme Court judges or the Chief Justice of the High Court.

A minor amendment has been proposed to the Karnataka Police Act concerning transfer of police officers on the grounds of misconduct, gross negligence, dereliction of duty or an act of moral turpitude.

Wanted revenue, but Gowda forced me to take finance, says Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU: In a parallel universe, a 46-year-old Siddaramaiah would be revenue minister in the H D Deve Gowda administration in 1994.

In this alternate history, Siddaramaiah does not become the finance minister, and holds no record of presenting 17 budgets.

Cut to reality, Siddaramaiah, now 77, presented his record 17th budget as the finance minister last week.

Segueing to the past during a discussion on the 2026-27 Budget on Tuesday, Siddaramaiah told the Assembly how he got his first job as the finance minister, a story that also captured his relationship with Gowda, once his political guru before they soured.

Siddaramaiah's prompt came from Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka, who recalled the criticism that Gowda had picked "a shepherd who can't count sheep" as his finance minister.

"In 1994, the ministry was decided at R L Jalappa's guesthouse in Kolar. Gowda, Jalappa, PGR Sindhia and I were there," Siddaramaiah said.

"I wanted the revenue department. But Jalappa wanted that portfolio, and Gowda agreed. Gowda asked me to become the finance minister. I said no. Gowda said he wanted someone trustworthy, so he insisted. I also insisted that I had no background or training in economics," Siddaramaiah said. "Gowda forced me to take up finance."

Siddaramaiah presented his first budget in 1994-95 as finance minister.

In 2005, Gowda expelled Siddaramaiah from the JD(S) for 'anti-party' activities. Siddaramaiah later joined Congress and is now serving his second term as the CM.

Ashoka said Gowda must have had foresight. "If you hadn't become the finance minister then, you'd not have created this record of 17 budgets," he told Siddaramaiah. "At least for that, you should thank Gowda."

State mulling formulation of civil aviation policy of its own: Minister M B Patil

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka government is contemplating the formulation of a civil aviation policy of its own, along the lines of those in states such as Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, Industries and Infrastructure Development Minister M B Patil informed the Legislative Council on Tuesday.

An official notification, issued on March 4, exempted the Infrastructure Development, Ports, and Inland Water Transport Department from the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act, 1999, in order to acquire the services of the Infrastructure Development Corporation Karnataka (IDECK), to prepare the Civil Aviation Policy, at a cost of Rs 11.08 lakh.

The policy will cover everything to do with the aviation sector in Karnataka, Patil told *DH*.

Industries Minister M B Patil makes a point in the Legislative Council.

"The team is currently studying the policies of other states, before we decide what should or should not be included in Karnataka's policy. It's too early to mention the finer details," he added.

An official currently working on the policy formulation shared that the process will begin with a thorough consultation. "Post that, we'll prepare a draft and present it. There will be another consultation held after that. All of this will take at least a minimum of one to two months," he shared.

The policy will also touch on the much-talked-about second airport proposed in Bengaluru. "This is the first time a comprehensive civil aviation policy is being formulated for the state, which will help in standardising operations," he added.

Airports in districts

Responding to demands for airports in districts such as Ballari, Koppal and Vijayanagara, Patil told Council, "We are studying the policies framed by Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh."

He emphasised the need for a thorough feasibility study before a decision on constructing an airport in a district was taken. "As long as the UDAN scheme is in place, airports can sustain operations. They will struggle later on. I am not refusing airports to any district, including Ballari. I will arrange a meeting of legislators seeking airports for their respective districts with the Chief Minister," said Patil.

It was in 2010 that the plan to build an airport in Ballari was first proposed, said Patil. Pointing out that 900 acres were acquired for the airport, he added, "Land was handed over to Chennai-based MARG Srikrishnadevaraya Airport Private Limited, which was tasked with building the airport. But the company did not initiate work on the airport within the stipulated timeframe of two years and the agreement was subsequently cancelled. Tenders were invited last October for the appointment of consultants for the preparation of a detailed project report (DPR)."

But the land acquired for the Ballari airport could not be returned, said Patil. "It will be utilised for industrial purposes," said Patil.

BJP accuses govt of allotting sites for Cong party offices at throwaway prices

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chaos reigned in the Legislative Council on Tuesday after the BJP accused the state government of giving away sites at throwaway prices for Congress party offices.

BJP MLC D S Arun charged that the government had distributed sites to the Congress party at 5% of the properties' guidance value. He further alleged that the state government had allotted civic amenity (CA) sites to the Congress party.

Karnataka Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning B S Suresh, however, defended the government's decision, which he said had been taken after obtaining the Cabinet's nod. Suresh proceeded to remind the BJP that it had provided a 100-acre land parcel for the Chanakya University campus – the varsity run by a trust associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Pointing out that it was not the first time CA sites had been allotted to political parties and other such organisations, Suresh said, "The member who has raised this issue – Suresh – obtained two CA sites for a trust 30 years ago."

Dismissing the charge, Arun pointed out that the BJP had not secured sites at 5% of the properties' guidance value. "The information being shared by the minister with the House is false," said Arun.

BJP members further alleged that the allotment of sites based on a decision taken by the Cabinet was in violation of existing norms. Leader of Opposition in the Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said, "The allotment of sites for Congress party offices should be cancelled because these sites are being given to the party permanently."

When the argument heated up and members resorted to personal attacks against each other, Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti was forced to intervene, and appealed for common sense to prevail in the House.

DKS' 6-year milestone as KPCC chief rekindles leadership buzz

BENGALURU, DHNS

Is Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar sending a strong signal to the party high command that he is ready to take the reins of the government after completing six years as KPCC chief?

A dinner hosted by Shivakumar on Tuesday to mark the milestone, attended by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has triggered fresh political speculation within the ruling Congress even as the much-discussed leadership transition remains unresolved.

The dinner comes amid heightened political signalling within the party. Last week, several legislators believed to be aligned with Shivakumar met at a hotel, to celebrate the birthday of Magadi MLA H C Balakrishna.

The gathering was widely interpreted in political circles as a show of strength by the DCM's camp.

Legislators who attended the meeting said they planned to visit Delhi after the ongoing Budget session to seek "clarity" from the party leadership on the question of the state's future leadership.

Shivakumar himself hinted at a possible shift in his role, suggesting he may step down as KPCC chief.

"I have confidence in myself... whatever is destined will come at the right time," he said.

Over the past several months, Shivakumar has made frequent visits to Delhi and met party president Mallikarjun Kharge seeking his elevation to the top post, but to no avail.

Siddaramaiah, who attended the dinner hosted by Shivakumar, appeared to underline his own position through a post on X, suggesting that he was not inclined to vacate the CM's chair anytime soon.

Congratulating Shivakumar for completing six years as KPCC president, Siddaramaiah praised his organisational abilities and commitment to the party.

"Though younger than me, he has a bright political future ahead. The Congress should return to power in 2028. I too will stand with him in the party's organisational efforts and struggles towards that goal," he said.

Siddaramaiah also credited Shivakumar with working tirelessly with party leaders and workers to bring the Congress back to power in the state.

Within the party, Shivakumar has long sought to balance the influence of mass leader Siddaramaiah by strengthening his reputation as an organisational strategist.

As party chief, he has pushed to transform the Congress from a mass-based organisation into a cadre-based party, with a strong focus on empowering booth-level workers and strengthening grassroots structures to ensure success.

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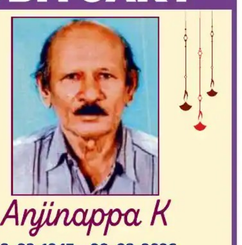

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Why restrict Kambala to particular area, SC asks

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a plea filed by an NGO which questioned the holding of the 'Kambala' in Bangalore Palace grounds, and said the traditional sport, a part of the culture, could be showcased in different parts of the state.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta declined to consider the petition by People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India, challenging the Karnataka High Court's November 14 order which permitted the buffalo races outside the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi.

The counsel contended that the state had earlier filed an affidavit stating that this was a sport which was traditional in nature and held in the two coastal districts of Karnataka. They wanted to have this event in the Palace Grounds.

"It has got nothing to do with tradition and culture. It's not the tradition and culture in B'luru," the counsel said.

The event may be cruel to animals, this court has said that it may be saved because of the safeguards provided by 3(2) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. The affidavit was filed before this court after the amendment, the counsel added.

The bench, however, said, "If the culture is to be showcased in different parts of the state, what is wrong? Let people in other parts of the state be familiar with the culture. Why restrict it to a particular area only?" While dismissing the plea, the bench said the court has to put questions to PETA also in one of these days.

'Lakkundi treasure 600 yrs old'

GADAG, DHNS: The gold unearthed at Lakkundi in Gadag is 500 to 600 years old, said the chief of the Treasure Evaluation Committee M S Krishnamurthy.

Krishnamurthy, who examined the treasure unearthed in Lakkundi at the Gadag Deputy Commissioner's office on Tuesday, said, "The 466g of gold, found while ground was being dug to lay the foundation for the construction of a house in Lakkundi, appears to be from the time of the Vijayanagara Empire. Commoners in those days did not use ornaments inscribed in the likeness of a lion. The ornaments unearthed appear to have been made for a female deity."

He said the ornaments were inlaid with precious gems such as blue sapphire, emeralds, and corals. "The value of 466g of gold is around Rs 80 lakh. But the value of these historical ornaments is likely to be 10 times higher," said Krishnamurthy.

HC seeks Centre's response in X Corp appeal

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to file its response to the writ appeal filed by X Corporation .

A division bench, comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha, adjourned the matter to June 11 for further hearing.

In the appeal, X Corporation has challenged the September 24, 2025, order of the single bench dismissing the petition against content blocking, as well as taking down orders through the Sahyog portal.

The X Corporation had challenged the direction of the union government authorizing certain officials to issue information blocking orders under section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology (IT) Act. While rejecting the petition, the single bench had noted that while X Corporation is subject to the regulatory regime in the United States of America, under the 'Take It Down Act' of the United States, which criminalises the violation of the orders of take down.

However, the same petitioner refuses to follow the same in the shores of this nation, of similar take-down orders which are founded upon illegality, the single bench had said. Insofar as the challenge to the Sahayog portal, the single bench had said that it is an instrument of public good, conceived under the authority of section 79(3)(b) of IT Act and Rule 3(b) of 2021 Rules.

Draft policy to compensate...

Covid, From Page 1

The court emphasised that the concern becomes all the more pressing in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, where immunisation was carried out on an unprecedented scale as a collective societal necessity.

"In such a situation, the state cannot be heard to say that those who experience serious adverse consequences must fend for themselves, without any clear or accessible avenue of relief. The absence of a coherent framework, therefore, calls for timely intervention, lest the rights of such persons remain only theoretical and without meaningful enforcement," the bench said.

The court also said the relationship between the individual and the state cannot be viewed through the prism of fault-based liability.

"Where the state undertakes an intervention of this scale in discharging its duty to protect public health, the right to health under Article 21 would automatically extend to a corresponding obligation of institutional support in cases of grave outcomes, no matter how rare they are," the bench observed.

The court also directed that relevant data regarding such adverse events should be periodically placed in the public domain, in accordance with the observations made earlier in the 2021 judgment in the Jacob Puliyel case.

The court noted the vaccination programme undertaken during the pandemic was itself an expression of the constitutional commitments. The state went above and beyond to create a vaccination scheme, and this undoubtedly helped save many lives.

"But at the same time, as the government data itself suggests, it cannot be brushed aside that the same vaccines also led to loss of life. In such a situation, it is not appropriate that the state shrugs its responsibility in coming to aid those affected families who have lost their near and dear ones," the bench said.

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SAM JEBASINGH** and **SAM JEBASINGH** Surname **INBARAJ,** residing at No. 126 Bethel Cottage, 11th Cross, Ramesh Nagar, Bengaluru - 560037, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as **SAM JEBASINGH** vide affidavit dated 06-03-2026 before notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

I, JAYALAKSHMI, spouse of Shamanna Nagaraju, resident of #3, F1, Anand Habitat, 3rd Cross, Artillery Road, Halasuru, Bengaluru 560008, have changed my name from Jayalakshmi to Vijaya, vide Affidavit dated 09.03.2026 before Notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed for all future purposes.

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I, **DEVENDRA PATIL,** residing at Site No. 7, Door No. 5 K No. 5/2, 2nd Floor House, Doddanagamangala, Electronic City Post, Bengaluru - 560100, have changed my name to **DEVENDRA G PATIL** vide affidavit dated 10-03-2026 before notary A Gerard, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **DEVENDRA G PATIL** only

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Doctors, staff call off strike as govt agrees to consider 13 of 14 demands

'No revocation of GO that prohibits pvt inpatient practice of govt doctors'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Government hospital doctors and staff have called off their indefinite strike from March 11 after the state government agreed on Tuesday to consider 13 of their 14 demands.

The Karnataka Government Medical Officers' Association and the central associations of various cadres of the Health and Medical Education Department had written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on February 13, announcing the strike if their demands were not fulfilled by March 10.

The associations planned to conduct the strike in two phases. During the first phase (March 11 to 15), all outpatient services were to stop, allowing only emergency services. In the second phase (March 16 onwards), all doctors, officers and employees were to boycott work until demands were met.

The associations stated that repeated meetings with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and officials since September 2023 failed to resolve issues. Further, minutes of some meetings were not even recorded.

On Tuesday, Rao and Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa met the associations' representatives and held discussions.

According to the meeting minutes, the ministers agreed to examine the demands, take action according to existing government rules and regulations within a stipulated time, and issue executive orders.

Association state president Dr Ravindranath M Meti told *DH* that the government had agreed to meet 13 demands and also assured to fulfil one more demand related to the appointment of an additional secretary - a technical person - in the department.

The lone demand that has not been met pertains to government doctors' private practice after duty hours. The association demanded the withdrawal of a recent government order that prohibits them from providing inpatient services in private hospitals after duty hours. For now, government doctors can only offer outpatient services privately after duty hours.

Some of the demands relate to amendments to cadre and recruitment rules, publishing seniority lists of doctors and other cadres every December, giving promotions to eligible senior doctors and other employees, deputation of doctors to medical colleges for higher studies/PG studies under the in-service quota with salary, fees and allowances, amendments to the doctors' transfer policy, adequate supply of medicines in hospitals, reallocation of MCh specialists, regularising contract doctors/staff and withdrawal of adverse orders.

MIT-WPU hosts Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2026

Dr Rahul V Karad, Executive President, MIT-WPU, felicitates Atsushi Takase, Managing Director, Mitsubishi Electric India, along with Dr R M Chitnis, Vice Chancellor, MIT-WPU. (Left to right) MIT-WPU's Prof Ganesh Kakandikar; Rahul Gandhi, former leader - Maruti Suzuki India; Dr Rahul V Karad; Atsushi Takase; Dr R M Chitnis; and Atsushi Otsuka, General Manager, MELCO, Japan.

MIT World Peace University (MIT-WPU) hosted the sixth edition of Mitsubishi Electric Cup.

This year, the national competition received an overwhelming response, with over 200 innovative project proposals submitted by institutions across the country. Following a rigorous evaluation by industry experts and academicians, 35 teams were shortlisted for the grand finale held at the MIT-WPU campus.

Team Nexus AI from Sona College of Technology, Tamil Nadu, bagged the Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2026. Team Recycron from MKSSS Cummins College of Engineering for Women, Pune, was the first runner-up while Team Pegasus from COEP Technological University, Pune, was the second runner-up. Trisense Innovators from MIT World Peace University, Pune, was judged Most Popular Team.

Dr Ganesh Kakandikar, Dean - Innovation, Start-up and Collaborations, MIT-WPU and Convenor, Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2026, emphasised MIT-WPU's commitment to building an ecosystem where innovation thrives. "This is not merely a contest but a comprehensive learning ecosystem where industry and academia converge to nurture patents, start-ups and scalable industrial solutions", he said.

Atsushi Takase, Managing Director, Mitsubishi Electric India, said, "The Mitsubishi Electric Cup's core vision is to cultivate future-ready engineers who can innovate, automate and contribute to a technologically-advanced and sustainable world. The idea is to strengthen students' innovative consciousness, cooperative spirit and engineering practice abilities by encouraging hands-on technological and automation-based projects."

MIT-WPU's Dr Parul Jadhav was the co-convener of the event with Dr Pooja Gundewar and Dr Gaurav Narkhede as members of the core organising team.

Curated by DH Brandspot

No activities in Sharavati...

Sharavati, From Page 1

It was further informed that there are serious concerns about the project and the same are yet to be examined.

The petitioners stated that the proposal requires 142.763 hectares of land, of which 103 hectares is geographically located inside the Sharavathi Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque Wildlife Sanctuary, and 39.715 hectares is within the Eco-Sensitive Zone.

The petitioners submitted that under Section 2 (26) and Section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, any activity within such a sanctuary is strictly prohibited unless it is established to be for the "improvement and better management of wildlife".

A massive hydro-electric project involving blasting, tunnelling, quarrying, transmission corridors, waste dumping and permanent habitat fragmentation can, by no stretch of interpretation, satisfy this statutory condition, the petitioners claimed.

Finance panel favours congestion fee...

Traffic, From Page 1

"It has high potential in Bengaluru City Corporations and can be proposed for Bengaluru's bus routes."

The report has noted that the levy of such a charge must be introduced on roads covered with adequate public transport systems, mostly the Metro. "It is recommended to levy the congestion charges on the ORR and other feasible areas, where adequate public transport is available to the selective type of vehicles which cause congestion," the commission has noted.

The recommendations were made after the commission studied the finances of Greater London with "special interest" and explored the innovative strategies for raising revenue and congestion charge was one of them.

Among the other suggestions include generation and trading of carbon credits on the lines of Indore Carbon Credit Aggregator Model, municipal bonds, entertainment fees and corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds.

The idea of introducing congestion charge in Bengaluru is not new.

A similar suggestion was earlier proposed by mobility experts when Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh had convened a meeting of different stakeholders last year. In 2014, the government had also commissioned a detailed congestion pricing study for Bengaluru but it remained on paper owing to lack of robust public transport systems.

Govt invokes emergency clause to ensure gas to priority areas

ECA, From Page 1

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to review the situation.

"In light of current geopolitical disruptions to fuel supply and constraints on the supply of LPG, the Ministry has taken the step for higher LPG production and securing it for supplying to domestic customers," Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum said in a joint statement.

"Along with ensuring supplies to all domestic customers, it has been decided to make supplies as per requirement to the essential non-domestic sectors such as hospitals, educational institutions, etc," it said.

According to the official order "Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026", the supply of natural gas to the certain sectors shall be treated as priority allocation and shall be maintained subject to operational availability to 100% of their past six-month average gas consumption.

These priority sectors include: domestic piped natural gas (PNG) supply; compressed natural gas (CNG) for transport; LPG production, including LPG shrinkage requirements; pipeline compressor fuel; and other essential pipeline operational requirements.

"The Union government has assessed that the ongoing conflict in the West Asia has resulted in the disruption of liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments through the Strait of Hormuz and suppliers have invoked force majeure clause which would entail diversion of natural gas to the priority sectors," it said.

To maintain supplies for priority users, the government has allowed curtailment of gas to other sectors. Petrochemical facilities — including ONGC Petro Additions Limited, GAIL Pata Petrochemical Complex and Reliance O2C — may face supply reductions first, followed by power plants if required. Refineries have also been asked to absorb part of the disruption by cutting gas consumption.

SC bats for Uniform Civil Code to ensure equal rights to all women

UCC, From Page 1

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioner, contended that Shariat Law stated that women are entitled to half of what men are entitled to. This court, in the Shayara Bano (triple talaq case), held that even triple talaq was part of personal law, but still struck it down since it was arbitrary, against public policy, and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution.

The bench also said, instead of declaring personal laws void and creating a vacuum, it was best to refer it to the legislative wisdom so that the legislature brings about a law on the Uniform Civil Code.

The bench emphasised that the top court has previously recommended the Uniform Civil Code. For a Muslim man, he can divorce unilaterally, by any procedure you follow.

"So, can we declare all bigamous relations founded on personal law as invalid? No. So we have to defer to legislative power to bring fundamental duties into effect," the bench said.

The court also said the judicial intervention would be advisable on a petition filed by Muslim women themselves.

Stressing that it was a question of equality, Bhushan, however, said that some of the petitioners are Muslim women.

The bench asked him to amend the petition to incorporate remedies in the event the Shariat inheritance provisions are struck down.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

ಟಿ–ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 020.

ಸಂ.: ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ಅಭೂಸ್ವಾಅ/706/2025–26

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.03.2026

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕಾಗಿ

ವಿಷಯ: ನಾಡಪ್ರಭು ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲು ಮೈಸೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಗಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಡುವಿನ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ "ಫೆರಿಫರಲ್ ರಸ್ತೆ ಭಾಗ–2 ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ NNA(Not Notified Area) ಎಂದು ಗುರುತಿಸಿರುವ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂ.ನಅಇ/4/ಬೆಂಭೂಸ್ವಾ/2024(ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ.06.03.2026

ನಾಡಪ್ರಭು ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲು ಮೈಸೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಗಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಡುವಿನ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಫೆರಿಫರಲ್ ರಸ್ತೆ ಭಾಗ–2 ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ NNA(Not Notified Area) ಎಂದು ಗುರುತಿಸಿರುವ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ದಾಸನಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಮಾಚೋಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಕೊಡಿಗೇಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಶೀಗೆಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕನ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕೆಂಚನಪುರ, ಸೂಲಿಕೆರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊಮ್ಮಘಟ್ಟ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 4 ಎಕರೆ 06.08 ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1976ರ ಕಲಂ.19(1)ರಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲು ಉಲ್ಲೇಖದಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ.06.03.2026ರಂದು ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪತ್ರದ 187ನೇ ಪುಟದ ಭಾಗ–3ರಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ 06.03.2026 ರಂದು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ:

Sl. No.	Name of the Khathedars/ Anubhavadars.Smts./ Sriyuths	Sy. No.	Hissa	Whether/ Dry/ Wet/ Garden	Total Extent		Kharab Land		Remaining Extent		Assessment Rs.Ps	Extent Proposed for Acquisition		Boundari By			
					A	G	A	G	A	G		A	G	East	West	North	South
1	2	3	4	5	6		7		8		9	10		14	15	16	17
Village : Machohalli									Hobli:Dasanapura							Taluk : Bangalore North	
1	Meenakshi W/o H. Manjunath, Rashmi K.M bin H Manjunatha, Devika K.M.bin H Manjunath (Joint)	134	2	Dry	1	29	0	2	1	27	1.96	0	10	134/2 Remaining	134/1	135	Kodigehalli boundry
2	M.Puttaraju S/o late MariyappaM.Channakeshava S/o late Mariyappa	135	1	Dry	4	31	0	5	4	26	5.45	0	19.12	135/1 Remaining	135 Remaining	Pipe line	134
3	Meenakshi W/o H. Manjunath, Rashmi K.M bin H Manjunatha, Devika K.M.bin H Manjunath (Joint)	135	2	Dry	1	22.08	0	0	1	22.08	1.82	0	31.08	135/2 Remaining	135/1	Pipe line	134
Village : Kodigehalli									Hobli :Yeshwanthapura							Taluk : Bangalore North	
4	Kadaiah S/o Karebyrappa, C. Narayana S/o Chinnappa, Smt Bharathi R. Shetty, Saraswathi S.Shetty, T. Manjunatha Prasad S/o Thimmaiah, Premakhanna S/o Ganesha Khanna, U.Keshavashetty S/o Madaiahshetti, Babu Ishmil S/o Khasim, V.K.Gangaiah S/o Kapanaiah, R.V. Gangahanumaiah S/o late Venkataiah,G Adikeshvan S/o Guruswamy Naidu, Kanthraju S/o late Hombalaiah Urf Gundappa, Kantaraju S/o late Gundappa,Sandya W/o Chandrakumar, S. M.Mukhiyar S/o late Siddik Pasha, Gangahanumaiah R.V. S/o late Venkataiah, V.K. Gangaiah S/o Kapanaiah Premakumari W/o Hanumanthaiah,Lakshmmma W/o late Rangaswamaiah	**55**	**2**	Dry	**16**	**0**	**1**	**20**	**15**	**3**	**9.5**	**0**	**12**	Remaining land of Sy. No.55/2 P.R.R-2	**P.R.R Road Sheege halli gadi**	Sy. No.53	Remaining land of Sy. No.55/2
5	H.B. Boregowda S/o H.B. Boraiah	156	7	Dry	1	11	0	6	1	5	1.66	0	7	Remaining land of Sy. No.156/7	P.R.R Road Sy.No.53	Machohalli Gadi	Remaining land of Sy. No.53
Village : Sheegehalli									Hobli:Yeshvanthapura							Taluk : Bangalore North	
6	Sairaghava Selfar for Animal	74	3	Dry	0	28	0	0	0	28	0.95	0	5.8	74/1	74/3 Remaining	71	74/2
Village : Kannalli									Hobli: Yeshvanthapura							Taluk : Bangalore North	
7	**Shivananda**	**57**	**1**	Dry	**0**	**19**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**19**	**0.60**	**0**	**0.08**	57/1 Remaining	57/1 PRR-2	58/1	57/2
8	**Vasanth kumar K**	**57**	**2**	Dry	**0**	**23**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**23**	**0.73**	**0**	**0.08**	57/2 Remaining	57/2 PRR-2	57/1	58/1
9	Bhadramma W/o late Channagangappa,Bhadramma W/o late Channagangappa, Bhadramma W/o late Channagangappa, Bhu.pa	58	1	Dry	3	17.08	0	2.05	3	15	4.25	0	14	58/1 Remaining	58/1 PRR-2	58/4	57/1
10	Channamaregowda S/o Channigappa,Channamaregowda S/o Channigappa, Bhu.pa	58	6	Dry	3	16.08	0	1.08	3	15	4.25	0	9	58/6 Remaining	58/6 PRR-2	58/1	58/10
11	B.Pushvathamma W/o S.Shantharaju	68	6	Dry	0	20	0	0	0	20	0.68	0	5				
Village : Kenchanapura									Hobli: Kengeri							Taluk : Bangalore south	
12	Govindappa S/o late Hanumanarasaiah , Anjinamma @ Tayamma bin late Dasegowda	55	—	Dry	5	6	0	1	5	5	6.5	0	10	55 PRR-2	55 Remaining	45	56
13	Channamma W/o late Puttaiah, M. Narasimhaswamy S/o Muniyappa, Chandrappa S/o late Krishnappa, C. Gowramma W/o M. Channegowda	77	—	Dry	2	27	0	2	2	25	3.5	0	9	77 Remaining	77 PRR-2	58	Sulikere Gadi
Village : Sulikere									Hobli:Kengeri							Taluk : Bangalore South.	
14	Nagaraju S/o late Gangahanumaiah	3	8A2	Dry	0	20.12	0	12	0	20	0.57	0	6	3/8A2 P RR-2	3/8A1	3/10	3/6, 3/7
15	Chetan Vidyasagar Pichamuttu S/o Sundar Raj Pichamuttu, H.Nagaraju S/o Hosalappa H. Renukaprasad S/o Hosalappa H.Shivakumaraiah S/o Hosalappa,V.B.Ramakrishna, Sadashivaiah S.R S/o late Revanna	44	1	Dry	1	5	0	1	1	4	4	0	0.9.12	44/1 Remaining	44/1 PRR-2	43	45
Village : Kommaghatta									Hobli:Kengeri							Taluk : Bangalore South.	
16	Paramashivaiah S/o late Veeranna	143	—	Dry	4	0	0	0	4	0	5-00	0	1	143 Remaining	64	64	144
17	M/s Padmashri Charitable Trust for Sathish and Dr. Ashwathnarayan C.N	144	—	Dry	4	0	0	0	4	0	4.53	0	16	144	144PRR-2 Remaining	143	145
										Total		**4**	**6.08**				

ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಸದರಿ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಕಲಂ.9 & 10 ರಡಿ ನೋಟಿಸ್‌ನ್ನು ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಕಲಂ. 9 & 10ರಡಿ ನೋಟಿಸ್ ತಲುಪದಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನೇ ನೋಟಿಸ್ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ವಿಚಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರ ತಕರಾರು ಏನಾದರೂ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ದಿನದಿಂದ 15 ದಿನಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ/ತಕರಾರು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಲಿಖಿತ ಹೇಳಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಅಪರ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಮೇಲೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವ ನಿಗಧಿತ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಜರಾಗದೇ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಲಿಖಿತ ಹೇಳಿಕೆ ಏನು ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಿ, ಕಾನೂನು ರೀತ್ಯ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು. ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ/ ವಾಟ್ಸಪ್: 94831 66622 (24x7). @BDAOfficialGoK

ಸಹಿ/–ಅಪರ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,ಬೆಂ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

> Since yesterday, commercial supply has stopped. My 15-member staff and delivery vehicles are sitting idle. While some private players have stock, the lack of compatible equipment makes it hard for hotels to switch. .
>
> **RISHI,** an HP Gas distributor for CBD area

> We can make idlis with electric steamers. But our dosas are entirely dependent on LPG. Alternative fuel or induction stoves will not yield the right texture and quality of premium dosas.
>
> **HEMAMALINI MAIYA,** managing partner of MTR restaurants

> We're recommending that on weekdays, breakfast and lunch are prepared cumulatively, and residents can fill takeaway boxes for lunch in the morning. Kitchens can stick to dishes that consume less gas and avoid items like dosa, chapatti and poori.
>
> **ARUN KUMAR D T,** president of PG Owners' Welfare Association

> We are now focusing on eastern destinations like Bali, Vietnam and Thailand.
>
> **SUBRAHMANYA H P,** regional incharge of Vikram Travels and Resorts India Pvt Ltd.

> A balanced approach that safeguards domestic LPG availability while ensuring continuity of supply to critical service sectors will help maintain stability in essential services and protect the livelihoods of thousands of workers dependent on the hospitality industry.
>
> **SHOBHA KARANDLAJE,** in memo to Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Puri

Necessity the mother of novelty in fuel austerity

PG accommodations to limit menu, combine cooking for multiple facilities

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Paying guest (PG) facilities in the city are focusing on gas conservation tactics to prolong the stock of LPG cylinders on the premises.

PG facility owners predict that food supply to residents will be affected within a week if commercial LPG cylinder supply is not restored. The PG Owners' Welfare Association held a meeting on Tuesday to discuss temporary solutions to the crisis.

"We are sharing a list of recommendations with all PGs in the city. We are coordinating with relevant government authorities about the possibility of getting access to more cylinders by weekend," said Arun Kumar D T, president of the association.

Some of the proposals include preparing only two meals on weekdays and removing common-use gas stoves on the premises.

"We're recommending that on weekdays, breakfast and lunch are prepared cumulatively, and residents can fill takeaway boxes for lunch in the morning. Kitchens can stick to dishes that consume less gas and avoid items like dosa, chapatti and poori, which consume more gas. They can prepare rice items that require less time to cook and can serve large number of people. A few PGs in the vicinity can also get together and jointly prepare meals," he said.

Some facilities are exploring the option of jointly cooking on the outskirts of the city using woodfire and distributing food packages to PG residents, Arun said.

Bengaluru has an estimated 15,000 PG facilities housing more than 10 lakh people. At any given time, a registered PG has three LPG cylinders on its premises, which last for an average of six days, depending on the size of the PG.

"We're also exploring the possibility of transporting gas cylinders from smaller towns nearby, where there isn't high demand," he added.

Rice cookers

A PG in RT Nagar with about 40 residents has begun using rice cookers to prepare daily meals. However, residents at the PG are miffed with the change.

"Since yesterday, they've only served us rice. No one can eat rice for all 3 meals. They are not even letting us cook our own food. If they set up an induction oven, we can at least take care of our meals for some time till this issue is sorted out," said Ramya, a corporate employee.

Mahindra Raju, who runs 3 PGs, in Kanakapura, Chandra Layout and Raghuvanahalli, has been receiving continuous calls from worried parents.

"Some kids specifically want chapatis or have other preferences. Because of this, I've been recieving calls from concerned parents. They're unable to understand the situation," he told *DH*.

From desperation to innovation

- Limit cooking to 2 meals per day on weekdays
- On weekdays, breakfast and lunch can be prepared cumulatively, and residents can fill takeaway boxes for lunch in the morning
- Avoid high gas consumption items like dosa and chapati
- Removal of common-use gas stoves
- Replace gas stoves with induction stoves and rice cookers
- Joint cooking by PGs in same neighbourhood

Demand up for electrical appliances

Electrical appliance stores are seeing a surge in people calling in to purchase electric appliances like rice cookers and induction stoves.

"Some people want to buy rice cookers and induction stoves in bulk. But so far, no one has placed a bulk order, just enquired about the price and how long the delivery will take," an employee of a store on Brigade Road told *DH*.

Some said they were receiving more enquiries for commercial use appliances like 20-litre rice cookers.

PG facility owners predict that food supply to residents will be affected within a week if commercial LPG cylinder supply is not restored. The kitchen at this PG at Vijayanagar in Bengaluru is on with limited menu. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

LPG cylinders are stored in carrier trucks, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. Hotels have expressed concern over shortage of LPG cylinders. PTI

Popular eatery Vidyarthi Bhavan in Bengaluru has cut down on the seating capacity to tide over the crisis. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

People wait to collect domestic LPG cylinders as supply crisis worsens in the city. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

PANIC BUYING

Bookings surge for domestic gas cylinders

NAVEEN MENEZES AND ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Amidst uncertainty over the supply of cooking gas, private LPG distributors in the city report that daily bookings have more than doubled over the last week.

They insist there has been no disruption in the supply of LPG cylinders from the plant; however, agencies are unable to meet the surge in demand due to a limited number of staff and vehicles.

"I used to generally receive 450 to 460 bookings daily. Now, that number has crossed 800. It appears that people are panic-booking, but there is no shortage as far as domestic gas cylinders are concerned," said a representative from a private gas distribution agency in RR Nagar.

Another agency operator in K R Puram added that while bookings have increased, they are unable to keep up with deliveries.

"In a day, I can supply a maximum of 500 cylinders. However, pending orders have already crossed 600, and on top of that, the daily booking rate has doubled," he said. "When I checked with the plant, they assured us that the supply will not be disrupted."

To curb panic-booking and the hoarding of cylinders, the Union government has introduced a new rule increasing the mandatory waiting period between domestic LPG cylinder bookings from 21 days to 25 days. This rule applies specifically to 14.2 kg domestic cylinders.

Major Indian state-run companies, such as Bharat Gas and HPCL, have sent messages to customers stating that there is no shortage of gas.

Large suppliers like BPCL and HP have also issued clarifications: "Claims of a shortage in fuel supply circulating on social media are misleading and baseless. There is adequate availability of fuel in the country. Citizens are assured that there is no need for concern. Using fuel wisely always helps."

Despite these assurances, some residents have complained that their booking requests were rejected. Agencies claimed these customers had already received a cylinder within the last 25 days, a claim the residents dispute.

Several customers who have booked refills intend to switch to induction cooktops if their orders fail to arrive on time.

WAR SHOCKS

Firewood, menu cut: Hotels' desperate steps amid gas woes

Hotels, From Page 1

"We have guests who have already booked rooms and meals. We have an obligation to feed them," said a staff member at a prominent hotel.

Speaking to *DH*, Bengaluru's iconic Vidyarthi Bhavan owner Arun Adiga said, "We have stock that will last for only two days." To cope with the shortage the restaurant has cut seating capacity, closed some dining spaces, reduced the number of tavas used to make the tasty masala dosa.

"We do not want to stop operations. We are waiting for a solution," he said.

Many restaurants have now realised that relying only on LPG is risky and that alternatives must be explored.

Another landmark eatery, Mahalaxmi Tiffin Room on DVG Road in Gandhi Bazaar, is facing a similar problem. "We have very few LPG cylinders left. They may last a day or two," a staffer told *DH*.

A popular biryani joint in Basavanagudi said the shortage has put its business at risk. "We mainly cook using LPG and that is our source of income." The iconic MTR restaurants are also confronting a possible closure, says Hemamalini Maiya, managing partner.

Ensure LPG supply to essential services: Shobha to Puri

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shobha Karandlaje on Tuesday urged Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Puri to ensure uninterrupted supply of commercial LPG cylinders to essential service establishments, particularly restaurants, hotels, hospitals and institutional kitchens.

Karandlaje, who called on Puri here, said in her memorandum that it would also be helpful if the Ministry could assure that existing commercial LPG distribution channels will continue to function without disruption so that uncertainty in the sector can be addressed.

"A balanced approach that safeguards domestic LPG availability while ensuring continuity of supply to critical service sectors will help maintain stability in essential services and protect the livelihoods of thousands of workers dependent on the hospitality industry," she said.

She said inadequate supply of LPG to hotels and food service establishments can affect both employment and essential food services.

"Several hospitals, hostels and institutional kitchens depend heavily on commercial LPG cylinders to prepare food for patients," she said.

West Asia crisis: 7 flights cancelled at KIA

BENGALURU, DHNS: Seven flights were cancelled at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Tuesday due to airspace restrictions in West Asia.

With eight arrivals and nine departures cancelled, travel to Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam and Doha remained affected.

However, even as the conflict in West Asia rages on, daily cancellations at the Bengaluru airport have started to fall.

Compared to 72 flight cancellations on March 2, the airport saw fewer than 20 cancellations each on March 9 and 10. Throughout the week, the impacted sectors have remained the same.

As of Tuesday evening, the airport had scheduled 25 flights to West Asia — 12 arrivals and 13 departures. It operated flights to and from Jeddah, Sharjah, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Ras Al Khaimah and Muscat, among other cities in the Gulf, in addition to cargo flights.

Hotels look to alternative fuel sources to keep hearths burning in kitchens

Cylinders that cost Rs 1,700 days ago jump to Rs 2,200-3,000

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The sudden shortage of commercial LPG cylinders, coupled with the absence of a regulatory framework, will have a ripple effect with hotel-goers having to soon pay a hefty price for daily food.

The shortage appears to be a result of a sudden policy shift to prioritise domestic supply over commercial interests.

Rishi, an HP Gas distributor for CBD area, confirmed that commercial fillings had been halted.

"Since yesterday, commercial supply has stopped. My 15-member staff and delivery vehicles are sitting idle. While some private players have stock, the lack of compatible equipment makes it hard for hotels to switch," Rishi said.

He said, "We are trying to ration what's left, but by tomorrow, there will be nothing to give. The effect will hit more than just food, the pharma companies relying on gas for steam generation and drug manufacturing are also feeling the heat".

Another gas supplier said they have exhausted their commercial cylinder stocks.

"There are rumours that some suppliers are hoarding stock to increase profits and are charging Rs 3,000 and more for a 19-kg and 21-kg commercial cylinders in black market. However, I have not done that. We have distributed all our cylinders and our stocks are now completely over because new supplies are not arriving," Rishi said. "Commercial cylinders that cost Rs 1,700 just days ago are now being quoted at Rs 2,200 or even Rs 3,000. That too isn't available," said the owner of a prominent restaurant.

Hemamalini Maiya, managing partner of the restaurant, said even switching to alternative cooking methods will take some time.

"For instance, we can make idlis with electric steamers. But our dosas are entirely dependent on LPG. Alternative fuel or induction stoves will not yield the right texture and quality of premium dosas".

The restaurants will consider limiting output and customers depending on how the situation unfolds.

The impact is felt most by thousands of office-goers and commuters who rely on these hotels for daily food.

"I come here every day for my afternoon meal, but today they said only limited items are being served," Suresh, an auto driver said. "If these hotels close, where do people like us go?".

CNG remains unaffected

CNG supply in the city appears to be relatively stable.

A cab driver waiting to fill his car at a bunk near Lalbagh West Gate said, "I have been following the news closely, but I hope CNG supply will not be disrupted. I cannot afford to fill a full tank like many other drivers. I buy only what is needed," said Somashekar, a cabbie.

Siddu seeks Centre's intervention to solve crisis

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has written to the Union government seeking urgent intervention to address the shortage of commercial LPG cylinders in Bengaluru, warning that the disruption could severely affect hotels, restaurants and other food service establishments in the city.

In a letter to Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, the chief minister said the shortage appears to have arisen following a recent directive prioritising LPG supply for domestic consumers.

While acknowledging the intent behind ensuring uninterrupted supply to households, he said implementation has resulted in an unintended shortage of commercial LPG cylinders in the city.

He said several hotel and restaurant associations have reported difficulties in procuring commercial LPG cylinders, raising concerns that some establishments may be forced to temporarily suspend operations.

Siddaramaiah

"As per the discussions held with the Oil Marketing Companies (OMC), the State's commercial LPG demand has been traditionally supported through supplies from the three OMCs—IOCL (around 500 -550 MT per day), HPCL (around 300 MT per day), and BPCL (around 230 MT per day) — and the sudden disruption of this supply is now severely affecting hotels, catering establishments and other commercial users in Bengaluru.

Any disruption to their functioning will have a direct impact on daily life in the city," the letter stated.

He also pointed out that a large number of students and working professionals living away from home depend on such establishments for regular meals. Choultries, hostels and event venues that rely on commercial LPG for cooking are also facing uncertaint.

Siddaramaiah urged the union minister to direct the oil marketing companies to resolve the supply constraints at the earliest.

TOO HOT TO HANDLE

Gulf-bound Byadgi chilli containers stranded at Mumbai port

ARUNKUMAR HURALIMATH
HUBBALLI, DHNS

The ongoing multi-front war in the Middle East has impacted the export of Byadgi chilli for the last 10 days. More than 1,000 containers of Byadgi chilli worth Rs 350 crore are stuck in the Mumbai port alone following the suspension of exports to the Gulf region.

Byadgi red chilli, known for its deep red colour and less pungency, is in high demand not only in India but also in foreign markets, including the Gulf region, West Asia and Southeast Asia.

Byadgi chilli, a popular variety of chilli which received GI tag in 2011, is exported in the form of pizza flakes, powder, chilli oleoresin, chilli capsaicin, and whole stemless chillies.

According to traders, around 40% of the total Byadgi chilli traded in the Byadgi APMC market gets exported to the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and Singapore among others. The traders also noted that in 2024-25 they did Rs 2,300 crore business, in which around Rs 1,000 crore worth of chilli was exported.

In the Byadgi market, there are round 3-4 direct exporters and 4-5 deemed exporters, who send chilli in containers to various destinations via Mumbai and Chennai ports.

Byadgi Chilli Merchants Association secretary Raju Morigeri said during the peak season, around 300-400 containers of Byadgi chilli are exported via Mumbai and Chennai ports every day. Several chilli containers got stuck in the Mumbai port following the war in Middle East.

"The dry chilli has been kept in cold storage, and it is safe. If the chilli in the container gets exposed to sunlight, it loses colour, texture, and weight, and if there is moisture, fungus develops on the chilli," he added.

Morigeri, who is also an exporter, noted that for export they add value, like maintaining hygiene, proper packing, and printing. The process costs Rs 3,000 to 4,000 per quintal extra. If they sell the export-orientated chilli in the domestic market, they suffer loss.

As per the export agents at Mumbai Port, around 5,000 containers of food grains, frozen items, chilli and others have been languishing in the port for the last week. Kartik Patil, an exporter, said, "Because of higher prices, triggered by lower yields and reduced cultivation, the export quantity has come down this year." Amid the war, the export has been completely halted for the last 8-10 days. "There is a huge demand for chilli in the Middle East; hence, they are finding other ports to export to the Middle East. Talks are on with Fujairah Port and Khorfakkan Port of the UAE," he noted.

SC to examine Centre's plea against high court verdict on IT Rules

Court says issue of Fact Check Units and online regulation is of 'paramount importance'

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday decided to examine a plea by the Centre against the Bombay High Court's September 2024 judgment striking down provisions in the Information Technology Rules that empowered the Union government to establish Fact Check Units (FCU).

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi said the issue was of paramount importance and it would be better if the apex court laid down the law on the matter.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, urged the court to consider staying the high court's judgment.

The bench, however, said it was not inclined to stay the judgment at present.

Under the 2023 amendment to the IT Rules, social media intermediaries would lose 'safe harbour' protection if they failed to take down content flagged as fake by the Centre's Fact Check Unit.

Mehta maintained that there was no intention to curb humour, satire, critical expression of views or criticism.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for the respondents, said there was effectively a 400-day delay in filing the plea.

The bench, however, reiterated that the issue was of "paramount importance" and it would be appropriate for the apex court to lay down the law.

Datar said the high court had delivered a detailed judgment and pointed out that it was unclear who would man these units.

The court observed that the key question was how to balance the rights involved.

Datar said the high court had suggested that the government frame proper fact-checking rules rather than include such provisions in a clause of a notification.

The court was also informed that, in view of the new 2025 IT Rules recently notified by the government, the FCU had effectively become redundant.

The bench, however, remarked: "Look at how some of these platforms are behaving nowadays. How dangerous they are. See the illustrations placed on record."

It was further informed that under Rule 3(1)(d), elaborate reasons must be provided and the content must be taken down within 36 hours.

"In 36 hours, you damage the person like anything...," the bench observed.

Datar argued that the Central government already had powers to take down misleading information.

"What is misleading? Who defines it? The Bombay High Court said what is misleading has not been defined," he pointed out.

The bench observed that there should be very clear guidelines.

"Shifting the entire onus on the machinery without putting any obligation on those who indulge in mischief is something that requires careful consideration," it said.

Datar responded that intermediaries already faced very serious obligations and that he dealt with such cases regularly.

The court also referred to fake WhatsApp messages related to the Army and police and agreed to examine the broader issue.

The Bombay High Court judgment had come on petitions filed by satirist Kunal Kamra, the Editors Guild of India, the News Broadcasters and Digital Association, the Association of Indian Magazines and others.

RIGHTS RALLY

Tribals with traditional weapons stage a protest rally demanding pension and compensation for Jharkhand statehood movement activists during the ongoing Budget session of the Jharkhand Assembly, in Ranchi, on Tuesday. PTI

7 workers killed after soil collapse at Gurugram site

GURUGRAM, PTI: Seven labourers were killed and four others, including three Nepalese, were injured when a mound of soil collapsed on them at a construction site here, police said on Tuesday, adding that an FIR has been registered.

The district administration set up an inquiry committee to investigate the matter.

The family of the deceased has alleged that the labourers were not provided with adequate safety measures at the construction site.

The incident occurred on Monday evening at the Signature Global Society in Gurugram. DSP Bhiwadi, Rajasthan, Yogesh, told reporters that construction work of a Sewerage Treatment Plant was ongoing when a mound of soil suddenly collapsed, and some labourers (around 12-15) got trapped under the debris.

Upon receiving information, a police team from the Bilaspur Police Station, along with State Disaster Response Force and the National Disaster Response Force personnel reached the site and rescued the labourers.

CBSE Class 12 maths paper 'rickroll' QR code sparks viral buzz

NEW DELHI, DHNS: What could the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class 12 mathematics question paper have to do with a Rick Astley song from 1987? A QR code. Students who took the exam on Monday said that a QR code printed on the paper to authenticate it led to the music video on YouTube 'Never Gonna Give You Up' by British singer Rick Astley.

It became a classic internet prank known as "rickrolling," even as the board maintained that the security of the question paper remained uncompromised.

"...On March 9, an examination in mathematics was conducted for Class 12. In a few question paper sets, it appears that when one of the given QR codes is scanned, it links to a YouTube video. It appears that this has raised concerns about the veracity of the question papers. It is confirmed that question papers are genuine and the security of the question paper remains uncompromised," the CBSE said in a statement.

Executive Engineer
Public Works Department,
No. 1, Buildings Division, SJP Campus, Bengaluru
Ph: 080-22255210
No.: EE/Bld.1/AE-4/2025-26/82 Date: 07.03.2026

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

The above Department invites Tenders through e-procurement portal of GoK (**http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible Tenderers for below mentioned works. **Name of work: 1)** Proposed Renovation Work of Mysuru Maharaja Choultry at Tiruchanoor, Tirupathi. Tender Reference: (PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT33697) (Call-1) **(Reserved for Others).** Approx. value of work: **Rs. 308.14 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 4,62,300/-** (Rs. 1,00,000/- through e-procurement. Balance Amount Rs. 3,62,300/- through BG, FDR, Bankers Certificate). Period of Completion: **9 Months** (including rainy season). **2)** Arresting leakages from expansion joints at 4th floor and terrace at 4th & 7th floor by providing grouting, cracks filling, water proofing and other allied works at New Kumara Krupa Guest House, Kumara Krupa Road, Bengaluru. Tender Reference: (PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT30266) (Call 2) **(Reserved for Cat-IIA)** Approx. value of work: **Rs. 40.70 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 40,710/-** Period of Completion: **2 Months** (including rainy season). Cost of Document: As per KPP Portal. Last date for downloading Tender through e-procurement portal and submission through online: **16.03.2026 up to 4.00 PM.** Date of opening the Tender: KPP Portal guidelines. Further information and other details can be obtained from the above office or from e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/6122/KSMCA/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.:CEE/Tr(Op)Z/HSN/SEE(O)/AEE-5/HNP-F-35, F-40(Add) &HNP-LW-06/2025-26/15119-22 Date:10.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids through e-Procurement mode for the following works:

1) Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT 3456 for Providing **additional 1x12.5 MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformer at **66/11kV S/s, Ganguru (Kallikoppalu),** Hassan District pertaining to operations Division, KPTCL, Holenarasipura on Partial turnkey basis **(CALL-3)**.

2) Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT 3457 for Providing additional **1x12.5 MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformer at **66/11kV S/s, Nagarthi, Holenarasipura Taluk,** Hassan District pertaining to operations Division, Holenarasipura on Partial Turnkey Basis **(CALL-3).**

3) Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/TL/WORK_INDENT 3458 for Providing LILO arrangement to existing 66 kV Rudrapattana sub-station by stringing 66 kV 2nd circuit from tapping point to 66 kV Rudrapattana sub-station for a distance of about 4.803 km along with construction of one number of 66 kV terminal bay at 66kV Rudrapattana sub-station in Arakalgudu Taluk, Hassan District on **Total Turnkey Basis (CALL-3).**

The detailed Notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL'** or to **https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in on or after 11.03.2026 at 11.00 Hrs.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy.),
Transmission(Operation) Zone, KPTCL,
3rd Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, Santhepete,
B.M. Road, Hassan - 573201.

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division
1st Floor, Zilla Panchayat Buidling, S. Kariyappa Road
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple), Bangalore-560070
No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/JE-1/44/2025-26 Dated: 09.03.2026

SHORT TERM SERVICE TENDER NOTIFICATION (through KPPP Portal only) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

Tenders are invited through e-procurement by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For **2059-00-101-0-26-034 Grants** Works. The service details can obtained from the KPPP Website The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **Dated: 17.03.2026 upto 4.00 pm.** Further details can be obtained from website at **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division
Bangalore Urban Dist.,Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/6128/SA/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Platform)

KPCL invites **e-tenders** are published in GoK e-portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** under **"GOODS" category on 24.02.2026, 28.02.2026 & 02.03.2026** as per RTPS requirements. **Procurement of - Tender No. 1) KPCL/2025-26/IND2253/CALL-3** Safety Items. **EMD: Rs.22,200/-. 2) KPCL/2025-26/IND2271/CALL-2** Cable and Festoon cable. **EMD: Rs.49,100/-. 3) KPCL/2025-26/IND2351/CALL-3** Worm gear and shaft of mill gear box of Unit 3 & 4. **EMD: Rs.1,08,000/-. 4) KPCL/2025-26/IND2476** Anabond 680 for RTPS, **EMD: Rs.4,700.** Last date for receipt of tenders: For Sl. No. 1 & 2: **17.03.2026, 16.00 Hrs.** For Sl. No. 3 & 4: **16.03.2026, 16.00 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the **Executive Engineer (Purchase),** RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170. Mobile: 94495 97966. E-mail: eeprtps@gmail.com

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಹಳಿಯಾಳ–581329
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08284-220128 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: acfhaliyal@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎ2/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಬಿಆರ್–75/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07–03–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಹಳಿಯಾಳ, ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಜಗಲಬೇಟ್ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ವಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅರಣ್ಯೀಕರಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ (ಸಸಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಸೇರಿ) ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ನಿಯಮಗಳನುಸಾರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20–03–2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ ಆಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ರವರನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು (ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ–9986543561).

ಸಹಿ/– ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಹಳಿಯಾಳ
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/1193/25-26 Dt.10.03.2026

MANDYA DIST. CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES UNION LTD.,
Product Dairy, Gejjalagere-571428, Mandya Dist.
E-mail:manmuluhtmkt25@gmail.com Tele: 08232 – 274571
IFT NO: MMU/UHT/TRANSPORT-TENDER/47A/2025-2 Date: 07.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-procurement portal only)

The Mandya Dist. Coperative Milk Producers Societies Union Ltd., invites tenders through E-procurement from eligible Tenderer's as mentioned in the table below.

Sl. No.	Description	EMD (Rs.)
01	Tenders are invited for transportation of Nandini UHT milk variants from Mandya Milk Union to different destinations of Karnataka and outside Karnataka, on Beiennial rate on contact basis	
	a. 10 MT Vehicle(8000 ltrs)	60,000/-
	b. 16 MT Vehicle(11000 ltrs)	80,000/-
	c. 21 MT Vehicle(15000 ltrs)	1,00,000/-
	d. 25 MT Vehicle(23000 ltrs)	1,50,000/-
	e. 30 MT Vehicle (25000 ltrs)	2,00,000/-

(1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/.** Interested tenderers may obtain further information at the same address.

Sl. No.	Description	Date & Time
01	Tender Schedules may be downloaded from	12.03.2026 to 10.04.2026 up to 05:00 p.m
02	Pre Bid Meeting	25.03.2026 at 11a.m
03	Last date for submission of Tender	10.04.2026 within 05:00p.m
04	Opening of Technical Bid	16.04.2026 at 11a.m
05	Opening of Commercial Bid	Will be informed.

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR
Mandya Dist. Co-op. Milk Union Ltd.,

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned by Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tenders through KPP Portal from eligible Bidders against Enquiry No.: **SEE/BRC/EE(O)/AEE(O)/F-1(B)(EV)/Enq-01 (Call-2), Dated: 09.03.2026** for Arranging power supply to an extent of 80KW to EV Charging Station under LT-6(c) & Petrol Bunk Installation purpose in favour of M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Limited, represented by it's Senior Manager Sri Gadasu Uday Kumar, M/s Kumarapark Service Station at Sy No. 206, E-Khatha No. 150200401700124811, Kannamangala Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk in Sai Garden O&M Unit of Avalahalli Sub Division of Hosakote Division. Issue of Bid Documents: **from 13.03.2026, 14:30 Hrs. to 27.03.2026, 14:00Hrs.** Last date for receipt of Bid Documents: **27.03.2026 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Opening of Bid Documents on or after: **30.03.2026, 14:00 Hrs.**

The tender can be obtained through e-Procurement by visiting our website or directly you can access the tendering website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Any clarifications about e-payment contact e-procurement help desk **+91-9240214000, +91-9240214001** or e-mail to : **support@eprochelpdsk.com** for any issue.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
(C, O&M), B'lore Rural Circle,
BESCOM, KSSCL, Beeja Bhavan,
5th Floor, Bellary Road, Hebbal,
Bangalore -560024.

For Electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP.

IN THE COURT OF XCI ADDL, CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AND SPECIAL COURT OF KPIDFE ACT 2004, AT BENGALURU (CCH-92)

MISC. No. 66/2026

BETWEEN: The Competent Authority for Seven Hills Souharda Sahakara Co-Operative Pvt., Ltd., 3rd Floor, Mini V.V. Tower, Podium Block, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001.Represented by its Competent Authority Sri. Amlan Aditya Biswas, Aged about 56 years Competent Authority and Special Officer, For M/s Seven Hills Souharda Sahakara Co-Operative Pvt. Ltd., **.....PETITIONER**

AND

M/s Seven Hills Souharda Sahakara Co-operative Pvt., Ltd., and M/s Agri Hills Farms estate India Pvt. Ltd,, And others. **...RESPONDENT'S**

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT No. 1,2,6,7,8 & 9.

1. M/s Seven Hills Souharda Sahakara Co-operative Pvt., Ltd., Represented by its President Narayanappa, Golden Store Building, 3rd Cross Road, Rao and Rao, Mangalore

2. Mr. M.N Prasad S/o Mr. Narasimha Reddy Residing at No. 30, Hanumenahalli Village, Gowribidanur Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka-561208.

6. Smt. B Aruna Sree, Aged about 56 years W/o. C.S. Ramesh, Residing at No. 2/697-E, M.M. Nagar, Mookondapalli Village and Post, Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu 635126.

7. Mr. Sridhara Aged about 42 years, S/o Chinnasamy Residing at Plot No. 3, Kuthiganahalli village, Attibele Hobli, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru - 560089.

8. A N Basavaraja Aged about 48 years S/o Ningaiah Residing at No. 4/16, Avverahally Village, Karle Post, Kattay Hobli, Hassan 573120.

9. B. Rachappaji Aged about 50 years S/o Late Basavaiah Residing at No. 4/6, Kallu Bahvibeedi, Bheema nagara Kollegal town, Chamarajanagara 571 440.

Whereas, the petitioner has filed the above petition under section 13(1) of the KPIDFE Act 2004 and against the Respondents.

The Respondent No. 1, 2, 6,7,8 & 9 are hereby issued show cause notice U/s 12(1) of KPIDFE Act 2004 and notice on IA No. 1 under order XXXIX Rule 1 & 2 read with sec. 151 of the code of civil Procedure, to appear in court of the XCI Addl. City Civil and Sessions Judge (CCH-92) at Bengaluru, in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to above petition on **28.03.2026 at 11.00 A.M.,** in the forenoon.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date above mentioned petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this **07th day March 2026.**

By order of the Court,
Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Sri Satish V., Special Public Prosecutor.

DIPR/CP/6131/Zen/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYAT BELAGAVI
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, CHIKODI
Email :preckdee@gmail.com Office Phone No: 08338-272131,
No.PRE/CKD/Db/kppp/2025-26/8729 Date: 02-03-2026

Kppp- ¸SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, State, Item Rate (Technical bids and Financial bids through E-Mode), E-Bids are invited for the following works through standard tender document KW-1, KW-2, KW-3, KW-4 (Standard Tender Document) from the eligible Contractors, registered in P.R.E. Department, & with kppp registration Bangalore, on "turn-key", basis only.

1]Last date of request for issue of blank E-bid document through e-Procurment Date: Other works:02-03-2026 To 16-03-2026, 2]Bid Closing & submission Date: Other works:16-03-2026 AT 04:00 PM, 3]Tender Opening Date: Other works:18-03-2026 AT 11:00 AM, 4]Pre Bid Meeting Date: [KW-3 & 4 Works Only]:17-03-2026 AT 05:00 PM, 5]Techanical Bid Opening Date: [KW-3 & 4 Works Only]:18-03-2026 AT 11:00 AM, 6]Financial Bid Opening Date: [KW-3 & 4 Works Only]:20-03-2026 AT 11:00 AM.

General Works Indent No's:25040, 25049, 25048, 25046, 25042, 25057, 25056, 25052, 25053, 25154, 24361, 24316, 23312, 23530, 23604, 24806, 24798, 24789, 24784, 24834, 24828, 24833, 24825, 23857, 23846, 23622, 23640, 23642, 23624, 23667, 23668, 23701, 23670, 23713, 23669, 23676, 23696, 23712, 23632, 23630, 23620, 23619, 23612, 23648, 23615, 23635, 23625, 23643, 23644, 25133, 25137, 25124, 25127, 25121, 24810, 24815, 24861, 23420, 23422, 23448, 23454, 25475, 23905, 24831, 17843, 17487, 7986, 23794, 23793, SC Works Indent No's:25041, 25044, 25054, 25051, 24352, 24373, 23707, 23781, 23646, 23621, 23685, 23674, 24794, 23706, 23631, 23641, 23647, 25133, 24799, 24813, 24816, 24011, 24138, ST Works Indent No's:25155, 24332, 23838, 23702, 23689, 23602, 24457, 23736, 23627, 23645, 24489, 24906, Category 1 Works Indent No's:23671, 24836, 23664, 23633, Category 2A Works Indent No's:25055, 25043, 25045, 25047, 25050, 22986, 24503, 23637, 23628, 23954, 23678, 23665, 23623, 23614, 25128, 25399,

For further details, the agencies may contact the office of the undersigned, during office hours, or may visit web site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

Sd/-Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Chikodi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-2039/KSMCA/2025-26

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B. No. 5531, Bengaluru-Pune Highway, Bengaluru - 560 055.
Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886, Website: **www.mysoresandal.org,** e-mail: **ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com**
An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company
Date: 10.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited by **KS&DL** in two cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** with respect to supply of following Goods/ Services/ Works.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published date	Last Date of Submission
1	KSDL/2025-26/SE0213	Invitation of Tender for implementation of Group medical insurance to contract employees of Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and New Delhi branch	Services	07-03-2026	23-03-2026
2	KSDL/2025-26/IND1107	Procurement of Amyl Benzoate	650 Kgs	10-03-2026	26-03-2026
3	KSDL/2025-26/IND1108	Procurement of Phenyl Ethyl Acetate	1400 Kgs	10-03-2026	26-03-2026
4	KSDL/2025-26/IND1109	Procurement of Di Propylene Glycol (DPG)	11300 Kgs	10-03-2026	26-03-2026
5	KSDL/2025-26/IND1110	Procurement of Indole	450 Kgs	10-03-2026	26-03-2026
6	KSDL/2025-26/IND1111	Procurement of Aldehyde C-16	1800 Kgs	10-03-2026	26-03-2026
7	KSDL/2025-26/IND1112	Procurement of Di Hydro Iso Jasmonate (DHIJ)	400 Kgs	10-03-2026	26-03-2026
8	KSDL/2025-26/IND1113	Procurement of Aurantiol Pure	250 Kgs	10-03-2026	26-03-2026
9	KSDL/2025-26/IND1114	Procurement of Aldehyde C-11	550 Kgs	10-03-2026	26-03-2026
10	KSDL/2025-26/IND1115	Procurement of Butylated Hydroxy Toluene	1800 Kgs	10-03-2026	26-03-2026
11	KSDL/2025-26/IND1116	Procurement of Aldehyde C-9	200 Kgs	10-03-2026	26-03-2026
12	KSDL/2025-26/IND1117	Procurement of Para Ter-Butyl Cyclo Hexyl Acetate	64700 Kgs	10-03-2026	26-03-2026
13	KSDL/2025-26/IND1118	Procurement of Palmrosa oil	4100 Kgs	10-03-2026	26-03-2026
14	KSDL/2025-26/IND1119	Procurement of Phenyl Acetic Acid Perfumery Grade	22400 Kgs	10-03-2026	26-03-2026
15	KSDL/2025-26/IND1120	Procurement of Methyl Heptin Carbonate	30 Kgs	10-03-2026	26-03-2026
16	KSDL/2025-26/IND1121	Procurement of Linalool Synthetic	15175 Kgs	10-03-2026	26-03-2026
17	KSDL/2025-26/IND1122	Procurement of Sandal Jasmine Rose (SJR) Corrugated Box	70958 Nos.	10-03-2026	23-03-2026
18	KSDL/2025-26/IND1123	Mysore Sandal Soap 150g (Trio)/Sandal Bath Tablet 150g (Trio) Corrugated Boxes	860000 Nos.	10-03-2026	23-03-2026

For any further queries/clarifications please contact the undersigned.

Sd/- Asst. General Manager (Materials)

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

A playbook for the long game

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's decision to relinquish his position and head to the Rajya Sabha signals the culmination of coalition politics practised in the state over the last many years. It is not known what role Nitish himself had in this move because he has not been keeping good health in the past few months. It is ironic that the Janata Dal (U) stalwart, one of the sharpest minds in contemporary politics, is now seen as having a limited say on his own position. The alleged waning of his faculties may, therefore, be seen as a reflection of the weakening of his politics. Both the leader and his party stand diminished in the state in relation to their coalition partner, the BJP.

The BJP has pursued a strategy of alliances with regional parties in states where it did not have the strength to form governments or even a significant Opposition. Bihar extends the party's template for coalition governments, first experimented with at the Centre in the late 1990s. In the states, this strategy helped the BJP encroach on regional parties' space by appropriating their support base and weakening or splitting them. There is a recent example in Maharashtra, where both the Shiv Sena and the NCP now stand fractured. The Sena, once the leader of the alliance, has since ceded control to the BJP, which is now the state's prime political force. In Bihar, the BJP was the JD(U)'s junior partner until the 2025 election, when the former took decisive steps to emerge as the larger force.

Nitish Kumar's retreat alters Bihar's politics, validating the BJP's formula of power through partners

The elections were fought under the nominal leadership of Nitish Kumar, though the BJP was initially hesitant to announce him as the Chief Ministerial candidate. However, there were no doubts about the party pushing for the chief ministership. The move has come sooner rather than later, perhaps hastened by Nitish's declining health. The veteran leader's son, Nishant Kumar, is being reported as a likely Deputy Chief Minister candidate. Neither Nishant Kumar, who is new to politics, nor any other leader of the JD(U) has the acumen or experience to hold together the party's core support base, which is a social coalition of the Most Backward Castes and women. The BJP and the other parties, including the RJD led by Tejashwi Yadav, will try to make inroads into this base. While the BJP does not yet have a strong regional face to lead the party, its expertise in social engineering and continued alliance with the JD(U) may prove the difference in this race.

Excise reform is a test of intent

Karnataka's proposed new excise policy, announced by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in his budget speech, signals a long-overdue attempt to modernise a regulatory framework that has remained largely unchanged for over six decades. The reform is welcome because the existing structure, rooted in another era, has struggled to keep pace with a rapidly evolving alcohol industry, changing consumption patterns, and the need for greater transparency. The most significant shift in the proposed framework is the move towards an Alcohol-In-Beverage (AIB)-based taxation system, widely regarded as the international gold standard for alcohol taxation. By linking excise duty to the alcohol content of a beverage, the system seeks to tax the component responsible for social harm. The transition, to be phased over three to four years, in theory, encourages a gradual shift towards lower-alcohol beverages. The policy also introduces structural reforms aimed at improving the ease of doing business. Pricing slabs will be reduced from 16 to eight, and the system of government-administered price fixation will gradually be deregulated, giving producers more freedom to align with market conditions. Simplified licensing procedures and greater digitisation have been proposed. Even the long-criticised transfer system has been partly addressed, with transfers of key field staff now conducted through digital counselling. Another notable feature is the attempt to integrate the excise sector with tourism by allowing distilleries and breweries to conduct tasting sessions and guided tours.

Karnataka must balance its commendable modernisation efforts with revenue growth and public health

However, the policy also carries significant risks. Excise is the second largest component of Karnataka's own tax revenue, contributing 20%, second only to commercial taxes, which account for 57%. With collections already reaching Rs 36,492 crore up to February in 2025-26, the government has set an ambitious target of Rs 45,000 crore for the coming fiscal year. The human cost of such targets must not be overlooked. Excise enforcement has historically placed immense pressure on field officials to maximise collections, which often translates into encouraging higher consumption. The Chief Minister has assured that the health department will undertake public interventions, including de-addiction and rehabilitation initiatives. However, such assurances have often remained largely on paper. There are also concerns that steep taxation linked to alcohol content could push price-sensitive consumers towards illicit liquor if the transition is not managed carefully.

The attempt to overhaul the excise policy is a step in the right direction, but it must proceed with caution. When a sector that generates tens of thousands of crores in revenue is reshaped, reform must balance fiscal goals, industry growth, and public health with equal care.

A POLLUTION BLIND SPOT

Clean air goals cannot ignore the present

India must prioritise protection from the immediate harms through a multi-layered public health defence system

VIJAY KANURU

India's pollution policy knows how to react. It does not yet know how to protect. For most of the year, our cities live under a permanent haze. Barring the brief mercy of the monsoon, toxic air is the inescapable backdrop of urban Indian life. The response to this crisis follows a rhythm recognised by exhaustion: odd-even schemes, construction bans, and emergency advisories. This is not a strategy; it is a ritual of reaction.

What is absent from this cycle is not ambition. India has no shortage of emission targets, regulatory frameworks, or court-mandated deadlines. What is absent is a parallel commitment to protecting people from pollution while the longer work of eliminating it continues. These are fundamentally different tasks, and conflating them has left over a billion citizens exposed – not because policy has failed to act, but because it has consistently asked only one question: how do we clean the air? The harder question, and the more urgent one, is this: how do we defend people from the air they are breathing right now?

India's air pollution response is built almost entirely around source control – reducing emissions from vehicles, industry, crop burning and construction. This is necessary work. But it operates on timelines measured in decades, and offers nothing to the child walking to school through PM2.5 levels four times the national standard, or the elderly woman in Patna whose lungs have absorbed twenty winters of particulate matter while regulators debated compliance schedules.

The structural blind spot is this: emission reduction protects future air. It does not protect present lungs.

Modern public health has always understood this distinction. Seatbelts did not fix dangerous roads. Vaccines did not eradicate pathogens overnight. Water treatment did not eliminate contamination at the source. But each built a protective layer that saved lives while the underlying problem was being addressed. India has applied this logic to road safety, immunisation, and sanitation. It has not applied this to air pollution, and the disease burden reflects that omission. Cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory illness, and lung cancer among lifelong non-smokers are rising in India's most polluted cities. The reactive cycle has not bent those curves.

A different framework is needed – one designed not to replace emission-reduction efforts, but to run alongside them. A public health defence system would operate through three complementary layers, each targeting a different point in the exposure pathway: the body, the individual, and the immediate environment.

Layer One: Strengthen the body's defences. Air pollution's damage depends heavily on the body's capacity to manage oxidative stress and inflammation. Urban particulate matter, which carries heavy metals, microplastics, and toxic hydrocarbons, penetrates deeply into the lungs and bloodstream. Multi-city research studies consistently find that long-term PM2.5 exposure produces the steepest decline in lung function among people with low dietary antioxidant intake – a finding with a direct policy implication. Community nutritional supplementation programmes targeting Vitamins C, D, E, and Omega, delivered through existing Ayushman Bharat primary care infrastructure, can reduce the inflammatory burden of chronic exposure at modest cost. Paired with lung function screening in high-pollution districts – modelled on cardiac screening already embedded in urban health missions – this layer identifies the most vulnerable early and intervenes before damage becomes irreversible. The infrastructure exists. The mandate does not yet.

Layer Two: Reduce what enters the lungs. Advances in nano-fibre filtration now enable masks that capture pollutants at the nanoscale – precisely the fraction that penetrates deepest into lung tissue. Wearable pollution monitors allow individuals to make informed, real-time decisions about outdoor exposure. These technologies exist and are improving rapidly. What India lacks is a system that makes them accessible and standardised across income groups. The Ministry of Health and the Bureau of Indian Standards have the standing to set performance requirements, certify products, and drive down costs through procurement scale. A seatbelt that only the wealthy can afford is not a safety system. It is a privilege.

Layer Three: Clean the air where people are. While national atmospheric cleanup remains a long-term objective, cities can deploy targeted interventions in the highest-exposure zones now. Building façades can incorporate filtration surfaces. Traffic corridors can carry localised air-cleaning systems. Urban planning can introduce ventilation corridors and green buffers to break up stagnant pollution pockets around schools, hospitals, and dense residential neighbourhoods.

Implementing this framework requires four specific steps: a designated mandate within the Ministry of Health for air-pollution health defence, distinct from the Ministry of Environment's emission-reduction work; national certification standards for personal air-protection equipment with affordability built in; integration of respiratory resilience programmes into primary healthcare in India's most polluted districts; and a formal urban defence pilot across five to ten cities – Bengaluru, Delhi, Pune, Patna, and Hyderabad among the candidates – with independent health outcome monitoring from the outset. Indian institutions have delivered exactly this kind of coordinated action before, when the mandate was clear.

The framing is now clear. Pollution control is a goal. Protecting people from pollution is an obligation – and obligations do not wait for goals to be met.

India has spent a generation treating these as the same task. They are not. Emission reduction determines the future. Exposure control determines what happens to people in the present. Both matter. But only one is receiving serious institutional attention.

Somewhere in Bengaluru today, a child is walking to school through air that will leave a permanent mark on her lungs. She is not waiting for a compliance deadline. She is not interested in emission trajectories. She needs protection that exists, works, and reaches her – now. That is not a complex ask. It is the most basic one a state can receive. India has the institutions, the science, and the resources to answer it. The only thing missing is the decision to try.

(The writer serves as a Global Entrepreneur in Residence at the Massachusetts Venture Development Centre in Boston, USA. He is a Gates Cambridge Scholar, a Helmholtz Research Fellow, and a Lowry Prize winner)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A date with Nessie

The mystery remains '*loch*-ed' in the deep waters

SOMNATH SARKAR

I would like to think I narrowly missed seeing Nessie, the Loch Ness monster, on a recent trip. After all, I had travelled thousands of miles to be within a "drive-and-dive" distance of the beast—variously imagined as a serpent, a dragon or a lone dinosaur that somehow escaped extinction. Of unknown gender, the legendary creature said to prowl the expansive waters of Loch Ness in the Scottish highlands had loomed large in my childhood imagination. Given this nostalgic pull, I scheduled my visit to Loch Ness in 2023 to coincide with a two-day global hunt for Nessie.

According to folklore, Nessie was first spotted by an Irish priest, St Columba, in 565 AD. The story goes that the creature had killed a swimmer and was preparing to attack another when the priest intervened. Making a sign of the cross, he admonished the mammoth beast and commanded it to retreat into the *loch* (Scottish for 'lake') and remain there. Nessie complied, slipping back under the waters without further ado.

Since then, the monster has been sighted from time to time, usually in fragments, by visitors to the eponymous lake. Reported glimpses have included a slender neck, a green tail and twin humps. Curiously, the pieced-together descriptions make Nessie sound like a hybrid — somewhere between the long-extinct Plesiosaur and an oversized eel. Evidence of the Loch Ness monster's existence, however, has remained anecdotal, resting largely on sightings and disputed photographs.

Against this backdrop, the global hunt organised by the Loch Ness Centre of Scotland in late August 2023—with volunteer researchers, including naturalists and zoologists from several countries—was billed as the most systematic search for the aquatic mystery sine 1972. Boats, thermal-imaging drones and other high-tech gadgets, including sonar and hydrophones, were deployed across the loch. Webcams trained on the waters provided live streams to viewers worldwide, inviting them to spot the elusive monster if it made a fleeting appearance.

Nessie, however, did not oblige and its mystery remained "*loch*-ed" in the 22-mile-long and 760- feet-deep waters. Earlier, a submarine crew reported sighting unusually large eels that roughly matched the monster's supposed profile— albeit on a smaller scale. With the odd eel reportedly touching three metres in length, the theory that Nessie might simply be a gigantic eel has gained some traction.

Perhaps, as someone remarked, the only foolproof way to establish Nessie's existence would be to empty the 7,500 million cubic metres of water in Loch Ness. But since that would mean draining more water than all the lakes of England and Wales combined, it is easier said than done. Till a more viable way emerges to unravel the mystery, it makes economic sense to keep the myth alive. The annual influx of thousands of visitors from around the world brings significant revenue to the local economy.

The brand of Loch Ness, besides promoting tourism and allied industries, also has a multiplier effect. Garments, toys and handicrafts featuring Nessie fill shop shelves, eagerly lapped up by tourists hoping to take home a little bit of Nessie.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Safeguard constitutional institutions

Recent discussions about a possible no-confidence motion against CEC Gyanesh Kumar highlight growing tensions between the opposition and constitutional institutions. While scrutiny of electoral authorities is a legitimate democratic practice, such actions must be guided by strong evidence and institutional respect. The EC plays a crucial role in safeguarding India's democracy, and repeated political confrontations risk eroding public trust. The opposition's concerns about voter roll revisions deserve transparent explanation and open debate. Democracy thrives when accountability and institutional independence coexist. Rather than escalating confrontations, Parliament should prioritise constructive dialogue.
Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Address shortcomings

I refer to Minister Madhu Bangarappa's appeal to lawmakers in the Legislative Council to join the drive to increase enrolment at government schools. While his concern is understandable, the approach is misplaced. Private unaided schools have expanded in rural areas, often at the expense of government schools. Parents are not enthused by free uniforms and midday meals when teaching staff are scarce. The government must address these shortcomings.
T V Pandarinath Naidu, Kudige

Flawed stance

I refer to 'India's position on war underwhelming' (Mar 9). Strategic silence may not be an effective response to wars in the neighbourhood. India should be central to diplomatic efforts to de-escalate this crisis. Instead, through ill-timed diplomacy and visible alignment, India has rendered itself a spectator. The silence after the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader and others is damning.
S S Paul, Nadia (WB)

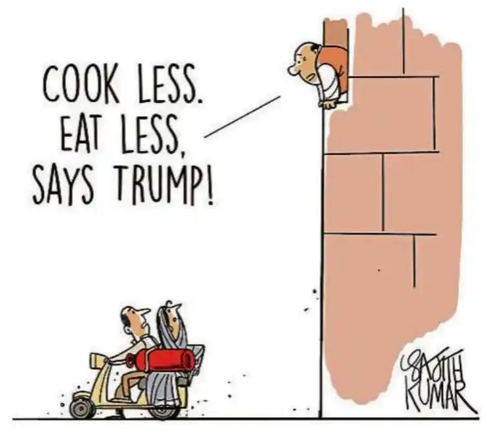
Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Everyone has the right to express their view. They say they (the DMK) will win, but from our side we are confident that we will win.
Nainar Nagendran, BJP President, Tamil Nadu

Words empty as the wind are best left unsaid.
Homer

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

Youth steers Nepal's new turn

The election result emphatically underlines the people's call for reform. Can the new guard deliver its promise?

ANAND KUMAR

Nepal has once again entered a decisive phase in its democratic journey. The general elections held on March 5, 2026, triggered one of the country's most significant political transformations since the end of the monarchy. The sweeping victory of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) and the emergence of Balendra Shah – popularly known as Balen – as the likely prime minister represent far more than a routine electoral change. The results point to a deeper generational shift in Nepal's politics, reflecting widespread frustration with the country's traditional political elites and a growing demand for new leadership.

The elections were held in an extraordinary political context after the government led by K P Sharma Oli collapsed in September 2025, following widespread youth-led protests. Initially sparked by a temporary ban on social media, the demonstrations quickly expanded into a nationwide movement against corruption, poor governance, and entrenched patronage politics, forcing Oli to resign. An interim administration headed by former Chief Justice Sushila Karki was formed to stabilise the country and organise fresh elections. Nearly 18.9 million voters were eligible to elect members to the 275-seat House of Representatives – 165 through direct voting and 110 through proportional representation – with turnout estimated at around 60% despite Nepal's difficult terrain.

The election results produced one of the most dramatic upsets in Nepal's recent political history. The RSP, founded only a few years ago by media personality Rabi Lamichhane, surged ahead of established political forces and secured a decisive mandate, winning around 124 of the 165 directly contested seats and performing strongly in the proportional vote. The victory dealt a major blow to traditional parties such as the Nepali Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist).

At the centre of this political shift is Balendra Shah, a 35-year-old leader who represents a new generation of Nepali politicians. A former rapper and social media personality, Shah first gained national attention after winning the Kathmandu mayoral election in 2022 as an independent candidate. In the 2026 parliamentary elections, he defeated former prime minister K P Oli in the high-profile Jhapa-5 constituency, symbolising a broader public rejection of entrenched political elites.

If confirmed as prime minister, Balendra Shah would become the youngest head of government in the parliamentary history of Nepal and the first Madhesi leader to hold the office. For many young voters, his rise represents a break from the political culture dominated by traditional elites. His campaign emphasised anti-corruption ideals, transparency, and a generational change in governance.

The success of the RSP is closely tied to the aspirations of Nepal's youth, especially after last year's Gen-Z protests created a space for new political voices. Young and urban voters played a crucial role in the election, with the party gaining strong support in cities, particularly the Kathmandu Valley, where many see the new leadership as a more reform-oriented and accountable alternative to established parties.

The elections also exposed the growing weakness of Nepal's traditional parties. The Nepali Congress won only a limited number of seats, while the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist) performed even poorly, with several senior leaders suffering defeats amid the strong anti-incumbency sentiment. However, former prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, popularly known as Prachanda, retained his seat in Rukum East, indicating that elements of the old political order still survive.

The elections have also drawn international attention as Nepal occupies a strategic position between India and China. India has expressed interest in a stable government in Kathmandu, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulating the Nepali people on the successful conduct of the polls.

Mandate of hope

Domestically, expectations from the incoming government are extremely high. The protests that triggered the political transformation were rooted in deep public frustration over corruption, unemployment, and ineffective governance. Addressing these issues will require not only strong political commitment but also institutional reforms and effective policy implementation. Nepal also faces major economic challenges, including slow industrial growth, heavy dependence on remittances, and limited employment opportunities for its youth.

The 2026 elections represent both an opportunity and a test for Nepal. The emergence of a new political leadership demonstrates that the country's democratic institutions remain capable of responding to popular demands for change. Whether this shift will translate into lasting political stability and meaningful governance reforms remains uncertain. For now, the message from Nepal's electorate is unmistakable: the public has chosen change and expects it to deliver a more transparent, accountable, and responsive political future.

(The writer is an associate fellow at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi)

Why boys should learn to cook and girls to fight

SHUKLA BOSE

In most Indian homes, cooking is still introduced to girls as duty, tradition, and destiny. Boys, by contrast, encounter the kitchen largely by accident—when they move out, live alone, or discover that hunger is a powerful teacher. This imbalance is so deeply normalised that we rarely question it. Yet teaching boys to cook may be one of the most powerful educational, social, and moral interventions we can make.

Cooking is not merely a domestic chore. It is applied science in its most delicious form. Every kitchen is a laboratory: heat transfer explains why bread browns and milk boils over; chemistry governs fermentation, emulsions, and caramelisation; biology determines how yeast rises, how bacteria transform curd, and why food spoils. Measurements sharpen mathematical thinking, timing teaches precision, and experimentation builds curiosity. When children cook, they do not just feed themselves—they learn how the world works.

If this is true, then cooking is not a "soft" skill. It is a core life skill, as fundamental as reading, writing, or basic arithmetic. And like these, it should belong to every child, regardless of gender.

In India, however, the kitchen remains one of the earliest classrooms where inequality is taught. Girls learn responsibility early: planning meals, managing budgets, and serving others before themselves. Boys often grow up assuming that meals appear magically, prepared by mothers, sisters, or wives. This silent division does more than assign tasks—it shapes attitudes. It teaches entitlement on one side and invisible labour on the other.

Getting boys into the kitchen and girls out on the streets sends a powerful message: no domain belongs to any one gender. Kitchens and streets, care and courage, nourishment and protection—these are human responsibilities, not gendered territories. When children repeatedly see boys cooking and girls practising self-defence, the boundaries that society has drawn for centuries begin to soften. Roles become fluid. Possibilities widen. What was once "unthinkable" slowly becomes normal.

This gender divide, however, was not always so rigid. In many early agrarian and hunter-gatherer societies, survival depended on shared labour. Historical records and anthropological studies show that women farmed, traded, and worked outside the home, while men cooked, cared for children, and participated in domestic life when needed. The sharp separation between the "public male world" and the "private female home" emerged much later.

It was during the rise of settled agriculture, property ownership, and especially the Industrial Revolution that this divide hardened. As men moved into factories and formal wage labour, women were increasingly confined to unpaid domestic work. The 19th-century ideal of the man as breadwinner and the woman as homemaker spread through colonial administration, education systems, and social reform movements—including in India. What began as an economic arrangement slowly transformed into a cultural rule, then into a moral expectation, and finally into a tradition.

Over generations, schools, textbooks, advertisements, films, and even toys reinforced this division. The result is not only unequal workloads at home but also unequal confidence in public life and unequal preparation for independence.

Philosopher Judith Butler's theory of gender performativity helps explain why these divisions are so durable. Butler argues that gender is not something we are born with, but something we repeatedly do—through everyday acts, expectations, and social rewards and punishments. When girls are praised for cooking and boys are excused from it, and when boys are encouraged to roam freely while girls are cautioned to stay safe, society is not merely reflecting difference; it is actively producing it.

When boys learn to cook, something subtle but profound happens. They begin to understand effort: the standing, the chopping, the waiting, the cleaning, the thinking ahead. They experience what it takes to keep a household running, meal after meal, day after day. This knowledge builds respect—not the abstract kind preached in speeches, but the lived respect that comes from doing the work yourself.

Teaching boys to cook is therefore not only about food. It is about empathy. It is about partnership. It is about raising men who do not see domestic labour as women's work but as human work.

And if boys must learn to cook, then girls must learn to fight.

By this, I do not mean violence, but strength—martial arts, self-defence, physical confidence, and the right to occupy space without fear. For generations, girls have been trained to be careful, quiet, and accommodating. Teaching them martial arts rewrites this lesson. It tells them: your body is strong, your presence is valid, and your safety matters.

Imagine a generation where boys can prepare meals with competence and pride, and girls can walk with confidence and physical courage. Imagine classrooms where cooking is taught alongside physics and self-defence alongside literature. This is not social engineering; it is social correction.

Education is meant to prepare children for life, not merely for exams. Life demands nourishment, cooperation, resilience, and mutual respect. A curriculum that teaches boys to cook and girls to fight does more than break stereotypes—it builds balanced human beings.

Perhaps then our homes will no longer run on invisible sacrifice, and our children will grow up knowing that dignity lies not in who serves, but in knowing how to care—for oneself and for others.

(The writer is founder-CEO, Parikrma Humanity Foundation)

Since the American-Israeli attack on Iran began, at least 12 civilians have been killed in oil-rich Gulf countries. All but one of them were foreign nationals

As war comes to the Gulf, migrant workers pay the price

ZIA UR-REHMAN, VIVIAN NEREIM AND AIE BALAGTAS SEE

Tens of millions of men and women form the backbone of the economy in the Gulf states – oil and natural gas-rich countries – that depend heavily on foreign workers. ISTOCK IMAGES

Murib Zaman worked as a driver in the United Arab Emirates for two decades, living more than 1,000 miles away from his family in northwestern Pakistan and sending home $300 each month. The manicured city of Abu Dhabi, the Emirati capital, seemed much safer than his remote village, where Pakistani Taliban militants roamed. So when his family received word that he had been killed in a faraway war — struck by debris that fell from an intercepted Iranian missile, according to a statement by the UAE — they were shocked.

"Every family wants to send its youth to the Middle East because there are no jobs here, and the security situation is difficult," Zaman's cousin, Farman Khan, said in a phone interview. "But now it appears that even those countries are no longer safe."

Tens of millions of men and women like Zaman, who was in his 40s, form the backbone of the economy in the Gulf states, oil and natural gas-rich countries that depend heavily on foreign workers. Since the US-Israeli assault on Iran began, Iran has fired hundreds of missiles and drones in retaliation at Gulf countries. It is migrants who are paying the highest price.

At least 11 civilians have been killed in attacks across the Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain, according to a *New York Times* tally of official sources. All of them were foreign nationals.

Iranian officials say that they are attacking US military bases and US interests in the Gulf countries, not civilian targets. But Iranian strikes have hit civilian infrastructure, too, setting five-star hotels ablaze and damaging a vital water desalination plant. And while Gulf militaries possess advanced air defence systems, the interception of missiles and drones can cause shrapnel to rain down, with deadly effect.

Last week in Kuwait, an 11-year-old girl was killed after shrapnel fell on her home; *Agence France-Presse* reported that the child, named Elna Abdullah Nea, was an Iranian national. And on Sunday, Mosharraf Hossain, a Bangladeshi cleaner and father of two, was killed alongside a co-worker when a "military projectile" fell on their company housing area in Saudi Arabia, according to the kingdom's civil defence authority and Hossain's cousin.

"His death has left his family with an uncertain future," the cousin, Mizanur Rahman, said in a phone interview. "They are especially worried about the future of their children. He was the sole breadwinner."

While much public attention has focussed on travellers and workers from the US and Europe trying to leave the region, most migrants to the Gulf come from the rest of the world — Africa, Asia and other countries in the Middle East. Undoubtedly, one reason that all of the civilians killed have been foreign nationals is that they make up the majority of the region's population. In Saudi Arabia, foreign residents are roughly one-third of the population; in the Emirates and Qatar, the proportion is an estimated 80% to 90%.

But low-paid migrant workers are also uniquely vulnerable as the conflict widens. They are more likely to live in overcrowded housing with insufficient exit routes, putting them at greater risk if explosions or fires occur. And they are more likely to hold essential jobs, as grocery store cashiers, sanitation workers and delivery drivers, that require them to continue working as usual while many citizens and wealthier foreign residents can take shelter.

"For more than a week, whenever there is a blast or a missile interception, we rush outside our labour camps or workplaces to try to save ourselves, but we don't know what to do or where to hide," said Majid Ali, 34, a Pakistani worker employed by a private dairy company in Dubai.

On February 28, the day the war began, Ali said, he saw police officers gathered around debris that had fallen in the area where he lives. "Since then, we have been hearing explosions almost every day," he said. "We fear the debris could fall on us and kill us."

In total, four people have been killed and more than 100 injured in the Emirates.

For many people, life has mostly continued as normal in Dubai, the Middle East's business capital and the biggest Emirati city, even as Iran has fired more drones and missiles at the Emirates than at any other country.

Despite the barrage of attacks, an Ethiopian massage therapist named Yordanos Aman drove from the emirate of Ajman to Dubai every day to the homes of her clients.

Traffic on the city's main highway was lighter than usual, but the bookings had not slowed, she said in an interview. Clients still wanted deep tissue massages and help with stiff shoulders from long hours at a desk. Often, alerts of incoming attacks sounded in the middle of a session. She continued her work.

"There is a strong sense that the authorities are committed to our safety," Aman said. "Even in times of uncertainty, you know there is someone looking out for you."

On Saturday afternoon, as an emergency alert flashed across phones urging residents to shelter in place as interceptors targeted Iranian missiles, the Dubai Hills Mall carried on with its weekend rituals. Families queued for lunch, and children shrieked with laughter in soft play areas. At a Pilates studio, the waitlist stretched into the afternoon.

Every so often, a distant boom cut through the hum of the mall. People glanced down at the alert on their phones, and then, more often than not, returned to their conversations.

Later that night, when debris struck a vehicle and killed a Pakistani driver in the city, Basudev Das, a Nepali who also works as a driver, was at home less than four miles away.

"My first reaction was concern," he said. "Still, Dubai has always been a place where I feel safe, because authorities respond quickly to ensure security."

Other migrants said they have felt torn about whether they should try to join the crowds of tourists and wealthy residents who fled to safety through neighbouring countries.

Marigold Tan, a Filipina coordinator at an e-commerce company, was among those who decided to stay in Dubai, despite her fears. When the attacks began, Tan, 38, did not know whether to rush home and start packing for the Philippines or stay put, she said in a phone interview. The attacks jolted her family awake at ungodly hours, sending them scrambling to the basement, she said.

She had their emergency bags packed, but did not know where they would go.

"As a parent, you also try to stay calm for your children," Tan said.

Relatives in Manila have urged her to come home, Tan said, but she hesitates. Even now, Dubai offers more than what she had back home. "Simply put, I feel more secure here, particularly when it comes to safety and health care," she said.

For Tan, the war has changed even the smallest family routines. Her husband used to go to the grocery alone. Now the family of four goes together, in case something happens. They keep their passports on them at all times.

The children mostly stay indoors, and Tan has begun teaching her eldest daughter what to do when the next alert of an attack sounds. "Take your sister to the hallway," she tells her, "and stay away from the windows." Leaving is a choice that is typically not available to the lowest-paid migrants, who are bound by employment contracts, debts or family obligations. And whatever the risks they face in the Gulf countries — more common than war is abuse and exploitation — they keep coming, because the remittances they send home are a lifeline.

The New York Times

Human machines to machine humans

TONY AUGUSTINE

The Industrial Revolution did not just change how we worked and earned; it quietly rewired how we felt. What began as human ingenuity in the 19th century with steam engines and spinning mills became a discipline of human conformity by the latter half of the 20th century. While it delivered unprecedented prosperity, it also produced unexpected side effects.

Efficiency and productivity emerged as the twin gods of industrialisation, and these two words spread through society faster than office gossip. Humans invented machines to enhance efficiency and productivity. But that wasn't enough; humans had to become efficient too. As Frederick Taylor's stopwatch clicked, people learned to measure themselves not in happiness, but in output per hour.

Emotions—those wonderful companions—were gently shown the exit door. "Be rational," people were told. "Leave your feelings at home." Thus, humans aligned themselves with *prakriti*—the mechanical forces of nature—so completely that they began to forget the *purusha*—the consciousness within. Success was measured in output, not awareness; in speed, not stillness.

For the masters of industry, emotions and awareness did not improve output. Workers were advised not to feel or display emotions and were asked to behave like machines. The argument was simple: machines never complained or expressed emotions while delivering excellent output consistently. To survive and possibly succeed, workers subdued their emotions, and rationality became the supreme guide to decision-making.

No company has ever reported: "Q4 results are down 12%, but empathy is up 18%, so overall, an excellent quarter." Slowly, humans began walking the path of the machines!

Charlie Chaplin saw what was happening and captured it well. In *Modern Times*, he gave us that unforgettable image of a man literally swallowed by the gears of industry. He showed us Tramp tightening bolts so automatically that he continued the 'work' with imaginary bolts! It was comedy, yes—but comedy with the unsettling aftertaste of truth. As Chaplin himself once said, "We think too much and feel too little." The tragedy was not that machines began to act like humans, but that humans began to act like machines.

And we complied—brilliantly. We became punctual, productive and efficient. But history, almost like irony, has a sense of humour.

Just when humans had perfected the art of becoming machines, the 21st century introduced artificial intelligence. With its arrival, we are witnessing a curious reversal. After almost two centuries of turning humans into machines, we are spending billions to turn machines into humans. Strangely enough, we are pretty successful. Now, machines write poetry, compose music and even offer sympathy. They don't just calculate; they converse. They don't just react; they anticipate and respond. Of late machines are working hard to become even more human – even attending workshops to learn humour! In short, they don't just work—they behave and even say, "I understand how you feel!"

Really? Do we really want them to?

In our pursuit of flawless efficiency and super productivity, we overlooked some core aspects. Now, in a world of perfect algorithms and tireless processors, humans find themselves yearning—not for more intelligence, but for more human attributes. More warmth. More pause. More soul. We won't like our AI-driven refrigerator to remind us to eat fresh food.

The only competitive advantage the humans have in this AI world is their emotions and feelings. After suppressing them for almost two centuries in the name of productivity and efficiency, we are beginning to miss these truly human traits. Perhaps what we genuinely seek is not artificial intelligence, but genuine humanness.

Somewhere, Charlie Chaplin is probably watching all this and shaking his head. One cannot help but wonder: will some future AI, inspired by Chaplin, create its own version of *Modern Times*—this time showing machines trapped in the gears of human emotion? Will it pause mid-algorithmic process to ask, like Chaplin's Tramp, what it all means?

Or will it simply optimise the question away?

For now, we wait.

Machines can act without any emotions, as they have none of it to begin with. But humans are meant to act with awareness of their true nature. The greatest danger is not that machines will become like human beings but that humans will forget that they were never machines.

In this grand story of progress, the final irony may well be this: We taught machines to think.

They may yet teach us how to feel.

(The writer is a Bengaluru-based automobile industry professional with a keen interest in circularity and emerging technologies)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MARCH 1976

Charges on rail freight, passengers spared

New Delhi, March 10
Passenger fares remain unchanged but supplementary charges on freight traffic, which are expected to yield Rs. 87.35 crore, enabled Railway Minister Kamlapati Tripathi to present a Rs. 8.98-crore surplus Railway Budget for 1976-77 to the Lok Sabha today. He assured the House that during 1976-77, the railway's earnest endeavour would be to consolidate gains made in the current year, attain greater heights of performance efficiency and make the railways financially viable.

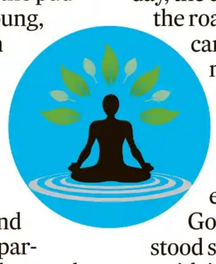
25 YEARS AGO: MARCH 2001

TMC, Cong sign agreement with AIADMK for TN

Chennai, March 10
Tamil Maanila Congress President G K Moopanar today announced an agreement with the AIADMK on behalf of the TMC and the Congress under which the two together will contest 47 of the 234 seats in Tamil Nadu as part of the AIADMK-led secular front in the coming elections. Addressing a press conference at Sathyamoorthi Bhavan after signing an agreement, Mr Moopanar said this alliance was confined to Tamil Nadu and the Congress would take a decision later on Pondicherry.

OASIS | JAYANTI CHANDRASEKARAN

Finding God in ordinary moments



It's not unusual for us, spiritual seekers, to look for God in sanctified spaces—temples filled with incense or prayer halls resonant with chants. Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa lived and taught simply, that God is not elsewhere; He is here, in everything. He permeates every aspect of life, waiting to be recognised in moments that are often dismissed as ordinary.

A central theme in Sri Ramakrishna's teachings is the role of the mind. He compared it to a needle that must be magnetised to feel the pull of God. The Divine is always present, yet the restless mind fails to perceive it. Sri Ramakrishna perceived the same Divine power in a blade of grass as in the vast sky. The rain nourishing the earth, a sparrow bathing in the puddle, birds caring for their young, or plants emerging through hard ground, all reveal a sustaining presence at work. Thus Nature, too, speaks of God without sermons.

He had a gift for taking profound Vedantic truths and turning them into spiritual parables that anyone could understand. One such story, perhaps his most famous teaching, dwells on the balance between spiritual truth and common sense. A guru taught his disciple that "Everything is God" (Narayana). One day, the disciple was walking down the road when a mad elephant came charging toward him. The mahout shouted, "Get out of the way, Run."

The disciple thought, "The guru said God is in everything. I am God, and the elephant is God. Why should God run away from God?". He stood still. The elephant picked him up with its trunk and tossed him into a ditch, leaving him bruised and broken. When he was recuperating the Guru visited him. The disciple complained, "You said everything is God, but look what the elephant did to me!".

The guru smiled and said, "It is true the elephant is Narayana. But why did you not listen to the Mahout Narayana, who was warning you to get out of the way?". While God is in everything, we must still respect the "Laws of the world" and use our discrimination.

Sri Ramakrishna's core message is the realisation that God is not just found in meditation with eyes closed, but is the very substance of everything we see with our eyes open. It does not remove life's complexities, but it deepens its meaning and makes it richer.

ENERGY CRISIS: Centre says there is no shortage of gas reserves for domestic consumers in country

Ramp up LPG output by 10%: Govt to refineries

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Staring at an LPG shortage due to the West Asia crisis, the government has asked refineries to ramp up production by 10% to offset any shortfall and ensure uninterrupted supply of cooking gas to consumers, sources in Petrolium Ministry said on Tuesday.

Stating that there is "no shortage of gas reserves" for domestic consumers in the country's refineries, ministry sources said that the short-term shortage was diffused by increased production. To deal with LPG shortage-related issues, the Centre has now constituted a three-member committee. This committee has begun receiving public feedback and is developing strategies based on that.

"We are taking a few crucial steps to offset any shortage, and unless this is a long-drawn affair in West Asia, we endeavour to ensure that prices remain stabilised," ministry officials said.

Reacting to reports of problems with commercial cylinders, government sources said that most commercial setups have now switched to induction plates, but any problems are still being addressed.

Among the steps, officials said, is increasing the booking period between two cylinders in households from 21 days to 25 days.

"Stock used to arrive at distributors within two and a half days, but today it is just two and a half days from when the crisis started for us. All refineries are working at 100% capacity at the moment, and 60 lakh cylinders are supplied daily in the country," sources said.

Officials also added that the increase of Rs 60 per cylinder levied last week was not due to the current situation, but due to last year's undercoverage.

As far as fuel is concerned, sources said that 60% of diesel and petrol previously came from the Non-Harmony Zone, which later increased to 65% and now stands at 70%.

Officials said that the Indian government has developed a supply management chain programme to address the crisis.

Jaishankar speaks to Iran foreign minister

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday held a phone conversation with his Iranian counterpart Seyed Abbas Araghchi amid increasing concerns over the fallout of the West Asia crisis, especially on the energy supplies.

"A detailed conversation this evening with Foreign Minister @araghchi of Iran on the latest developments regarding the ongoing conflict. We agreed to remain in touch," Jaishankar said on social media.

Fares set to rise as Air India plans to levy fuel surcharge on tickets

NEW DELHI, PTI: Airfares are set to rise with Air India and Air India Express deciding to levy a fuel surcharge of Rs 399 on each domestic flight ticket from March 12 and also hike the charge for international bookings due to a steep rise in jet fuel prices amid the West Asia conflict.

The new fuel surcharges will be implemented in in phases.

Regretting the need for fuel surcharges, Air India on Tuesday said that without such surcharges, "it is likely that some flights would be unable to cover operating costs and would have to be cancelled".

In the first phase, a fuel surcharge of Rs 399 per domestic flight ticket would be imposed from March 12, and the same will also be applicable for SAARC flights, a statement said on Tuesday.

For West Asia flights, the fuel surcharge will be USD 10 and hiked by USD 30 to USD 90 for Africa flights and by USD 20 to USD 60 for Southeast Asia services.

All these changes will be effective from March 12, including for flights to and from Singapore. Currently, there is no fuel surcharge for Singapore services.

In the second phase, AI will increase the surcharge by USD 25 to USD 50 for flights to Europe, North America and Australia starting from March 18.

Restaurants in Chennai limit their menus, tweak timings

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Reeling under the shortage of commercial LPG cylinders due to the Iran war, restaurants across Tamil Nadu on Tuesday began limiting their menu to essential items and restricting the availability of some food items to specific hours of the day.

Hotel owner associations in several cities, including Chennai, Coimbatore, and Madurai, warned that they may have to close their shutters in the next couple of days if the supply of LPG cylinders is not restored.

Hotel Anandaas on the arterial Anna Salai in Chennai opened its doors to customers an hour late on Tuesday and took several popular dishes off the menu to conserve LPG cylinders and continue running the restaurant. The restaurant served only one type of kurma instead of three and one type of sambar instead of two and told customers that it won't be serving variety rice till the situation eases.

"We will restrict the timings in the days to come. We have resorted to serving only essential items like idly. We won't be serving fried rice, dosa, chapathi, and North Indian items for the next few days," the manager of Hotel Anandaas told *DH*.

Workers load LPG cylinders at a depot following recent price hikes for both domestic and commercial units in Nagpur on Tuesday. PTI

Several restaurants, including popular names like Adyar Ananda Bhavan (A2B) and Sangeetha, across the city displayed boards outside their premises informing customers of the shortage of LPG cylinders and temporary changes to their menu. Owners of Sangeetha, A2B, and other restaurant chains said they have cylinder supplies only for the next two or three days.

If the situation persists and restaurants continue to run with limited menus, the owners fear financial losses as big outlets pay huge salaries for their staff.

Tea stalls in the city and elsewhere also suffered, as several owners said the LPG cylinder supply, which was erratic for the past few days, completely stopped on Tuesday morning. Auto drivers who own vehicles that run on LPG also complained that several pumps in the city were shut on Tuesday due to a shortage of gas, but said that they were told to return tomorrow.

Annapoorna, the iconic brand based out of Coimbatore, said it has reduced menu offerings to focus on essential items and altered availability time for certain products

Venkata Subbu, President, Tamil Nadu Hotels Association, said they were facing a crisis-like situation as lakhs of people will be affected if restaurants are shut.

"Only 10% of people come to restaurants for leisure. The rest are migrants, bachelors, and patients who get treated at various hospitals. If hotels are shut down, where will they go and eat? We want the government to include commercial cylinders also under essential commodities," Subbu added.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister M K Stalin nudged the Centre to ensure that LPG shortage does not affect the public, commercial establishments, or MSME industries in state.

HEAD OF A POPULAR RESTAURANT CHAIN IN TN

"It is like a second Covid-19-enforced lockdown for us... For dosa, tea or coffee, the stove should receive LPG supply non-stop.

Shortage concerns mount in Kerala

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Hotels as well as domestic consumers in Kerala too have started feeling the heat of the LPG shortage in view of the tension in West Asia.

Even as the LPG firms reportedly maintained at a meeting with Kerala civil supplies minister G R Anil that, as of now, there was no crisis, domestic consumers as well as hotels and restaurants cited a shortage in supply.

Scores of domestic consumers are waiting for cylinder supply even after receiving messages regarding the delivery code from the companies. Many gas agencies were also unable to give a convincing reply to consumers, leading to suspicions of illegally diverting domestic cylinders to hotels.

Meanwhile, Kerala Hotel and Restaurant Association general secretary Abdul Razak said that many hotels that were fully dependent on LPG were on the verge of shutdown. It will lead to a major social issue as the livelihood of thousands of employees would be affected.

Kerala Civil Supplies Minister said that the state government would also take up the matter with the Centre.

Meanwhile, scores of consumers in cities like Thiruvananthapuram who recently shifted to piped gas supply were heaving a sigh of relief over reports that the piped gas supply won't be affected soon.

Andhra hoteliers warn gas crunch could hit tourism services

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Hoteliers from Andhra Pradesh have urged for an immediate government intervention into the possible commercial LPG crisis.

Representatives of Andhra Pradesh Star Hotels Association (ASHA) wrote to the state Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar on Tuesday, seeking guidance to facilitate coordination with LPG distributors and concerned authorities in the state to ensure reasonable and uninterrupted availability of Commercial LPG cylinders.

"At the outset, we sincerely appreciate the Government of India's commitment to ensuring uninterrupted LPG supply to households across the country... At the same time, we humbly submit that the hospitality sector—comprising star hotels, resorts, catering establishments, and food service outlets—depends significantly on Commercial LPG Cylinders for daily operations, particularly in food preparation and guest services," ASHA state president Ramisetty Veeraswamy said.

"The hospitality industry plays a crucial role in supporting the tourism ecosystem in Andhra Pradesh, especially in cities such as Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Tirupati and other major destinations, where uninterrupted hospitality services are essential for serving both domestic and international visitors," he added.

Further, he said that following the government of India's order, several hospitality establishments are receiving indications from LPG distributors regarding possible constraints in the supply of Commercial LPG cylinders, which has created growing concern within the industry.

Any prolonged disruption in Commercial LPG supply could significantly impact hotel kitchens, restaurants, catering services, banquets, conferences and tourism-related operations, he added.

Bihar stable but may panic if supply not restored

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

While Bihar may not be facing an LPG crisis as of now, it may press the panic button in the coming days, as the LPG cylinder supply has been curtailed by around 25% in the last five days.

Speaking to *DH,* two gas agency owners confirmed that the supply has been curtailed and therefore delivery of LPG gas was partially affected, "but the situation is not out of control".

"If the US-Israel and Iran war remains unabated and affects oil production and supply, we won't remain untouched. Right now, a commercial cylinder is available for Rs 2,133, while a domestic LPG cylinder costs Rs 1,011 in Patna. But amid news of war and its cascading effect on the supply, chances are we may have a backlog for delivery in the next few days," said one of the LPG gas agency owners, on the condition of anonymity as the Indian Oil has asked them not to speak to the media.

SC: Will not tolerate attempt to question judicial officers' integrity in Bengal SIR

Orders an appellate tribunal to hear appeals

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday voiced strong discontent with the filing of certain applications in respect of the pendency of claims before judicial officers involved in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal.

The court, however, ordered for notifying an appellate tribunal to hear appeals arising from the SIR process.

Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy for the applicants contended before a bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant that there are roughly 48 lakh mapped voters under adjudication. "They are mapped because they were on the 2002 roll. They have voted in consecutive elections, these are genuine, bona fide voters," she claimed.

"That is why the SIR," the bench said. "The judicial officers are on the job, and those are genuine bona fide voters; they will include. Those found to be intruders, unauthorised (won't be included)."

The court made it categorical that it would not tolerate attempts to question the integrity of judicial officers. "Your application is premature, and it shows as if you don't have trust," the bench said.

The counsel insisted that the exercise has to be completed. The bench, also comprising Justices R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi, said the judicial officers are doing the exercise.

The court pointed out that the plea sought directions to the Election Commission to withdraw all additional cases for review given to the judicial officers, which is contrary to the order passed. It said it is a request to both sides to ensure the smooth discharge of duties by judicial officers.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee during a dharna in Kolkata against alleged voter deletions from the post-SIR rolls. PTI

Senior advocate D S Naidu for the EC said judicial officers are undertaking a huge task.

The court said technical disruptions in the EC's portal would be looked into, and it should be ensured that no such disruptions take place. It also noted a communication received from the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court stated that 10.16 lakh objections had been disposed of as of the evening of March 9.

The bench asked the poll panel to ensure that no mandatory step that can disrupt the SIR process is introduced unless approved by the Calcutta High Court chief justice.

Appellate tribunal

The bench said the Chief Justice of the Calcutta HC may request some former Chief Justice and some former judges of the HC, who would be notified as the appellate tribunal. The bench said the EC may notify them as an appellate tribunal to hear appeals arising from the SIR process.

No eligible voters in Bengal will be barred from voting, says CEC Kumar

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

No eligible voter would be struck off the electoral rolls in West Bengal, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said on Tuesday, as he and the two other Election Commissioners concluded the review of the preparations of the Assembly polls in the state, although the eligibility of about 50 lakh people to cast votes remained under scrutiny.

Ahead of the announcement of the Bengal polls, security forces conduct a route march in Balurghat on Tuesday. PTI

The protesters, agitated over the deletion of voters from the electoral rolls, waved black flags and raised slogans against the EC when the CEC visited a temple in Kolkata early on the concluding day of his state visit.

"Our aim is to ensure free, fair and peaceful polls in Bengal," Kumar said addressing a news conference, before leaving Kolkata on Tuesday.

He emphasised that every eligible voter would have the opportunity to vote, adding that no ineligible person would be included in the rolls.

The EC may declare the schedule of the assembly polls in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam and West Bengal, as well as in the Union Territory of Puducherry, soon.

The SC on Tuesday did not ask the EC to postpone the schedule of the elections in West Bengal, where the fate of about 50 lakh voters placed 'under adjudication' category at the end of the Special Intensive Revision remained undecided till Monday.

Mamata ends protest

A few hours after the CEC left, CM Mamata Banerjee, ended her five-day-long sit-in protest in Kolkata against the large-scale deletion of voters. She ended the protest after the SC on Tuesday ordered that independent appellate tribunals, headed by former high court judges, would be set up to hear the appeals against exclusions from voter lists during the SIR in West Bengal.

SIR ROW

Oppn begins collecting signatures on motion to impeach CEC

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Opposition on Tuesday initiated the process of collecting signatures for the motion seeking to impeach Chief Election Commissioner and is likely to charge him with proven misbehaviour, election fraud and mass disenfranchisement through Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Sources said the I.N.D.I.A bloc parties hope to submit the notice by Friday after collecting the signatures in the next couple of days.

However, varying suggestions on which House to submit the notice have prompted leaders to also consider the option of filing it in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on the same day. The initial suggestion was to submit it in Lok Sabha, but some MPs felt that the better option would be Rajya Sabha.

In the coming days, sources said, a call will be taken on where to submit it even as floor managers said they had enough MPs to get the requisite signatures – 100 in Lok Sabha and 50 in Rajya Sabha – for the notice. Chief Whips of parties have been tasked to coordinate on getting signatures.

The submission of the notice is likely to happen only after the resolution seeking removal of Om Birla as Lok Sabha Speaker is disposed of in the House on Wednesday evening.

If it is submitted and accepted, it will be the first time a CEC will face impeachment proceedings. In the 1990s against TN Seshan and Naveen Chawla in 2006, there were talks about initiating such a move but it was not taken forward after a while.

Sources said the text of the motion would have the mention of "proven misbehaviour" of the CEC by citing observations made by the Supreme Court during hearing of petitions against the SIR. It is also likely to include "election fraud" aided by alleged actions of the CEC.

Another highlight point is likely to be the mention of "mass disenfranchisement" through SIR.

2 killed amid tensions over tribal council polls in Meghalaya

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Two persons died, and several others were injured in West Garo Hill district in Meghalaya on Tuesday morning after police opened fire to control clashes over participation of non-tribals in the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) elections.

The administration clamped curfew, suspended mobile internet for 48 hours and even called additional forces, including the army, as a volatile situation prevailed due to clashes between tribals and non-tribals since Monday night.

Strong protests

Tension prevailed in Garo Hills due to strong protests by non-tribals over a recent notification by the council making it mandatory for the candidates to produce a Scheduled Tribe certificate along with nomination papers for the polls, scheduled on April 10. Tribals have been demanding that non-tribals should be barred from contesting the polls as the council was set up under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution for the welfare of the tribals.

The non-tribal population, mainly Bengali-speaking Muslims, are dominant in five out of 30 constituencies of the autonomous council. There are two non-tribal members in the council at present.

The situation turned tense when S G Esmatur Mominin, a former non-tribal MLA, went to submit his nomination papers on Monday. Mominin described the GHADC notification "unconstitutional," following which he was allegedly assaulted in Tura, the headquarters of Garo Hills.

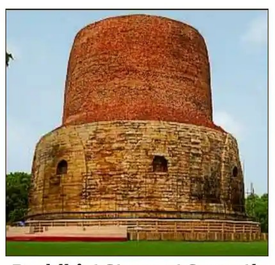
ASI revises Sarnath plaque, corrects record on site's discovery

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The ancient Buddhist site of Sarnath, one of the most sacred Buddhist pilgrimage sites where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment, was discovered by a descendant of the Banaras royal family, contrary to the belief that British archaeologists discovered it.

Pradeep Narayan Singh, a sixth-generation descendant of Babu Jagat Singh, a member of the Banaras royal family, said in Varanasi on Monday that the ancient site had first been brought to light by his ancestor.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), after examining primary historical evidence and the authenticity of documents, has acknowledged that the Sarnath site was first excavated by Babu Jagat Singh in the latter half of the 18th century.



Buddhist Stupa at Sarnath in Varanasi.

The ASI has also installed a revised plaque at the Sarnath complex.

The decision is significant as it corrects British-era records, which had attributed the initial discovery to British archaeologists Colonel C Mackenzie and Jonathan Duncan.

Singh said the area had been neglected and covered with forests when Jagat Singh began excavation work at the site.

"Evidence of ancient remains and structures was discovered during the excavation, revealing the site's historical significance," he said.

He added that this fact remained largely unrecorded for a long time, and Jagat Singh's role remained largely undiscussed due to the lack of adequate recognition of local contributions in colonial-era historical writing.

Singh said the Jagat Singh Royal Family Research Committee initiated efforts to have the records corrected and gathered evidence and historical documents in support of the claim.

Terrorist killed as Army foils infiltration bid along LoC in Rajouri

Encounter breaks out in Jhangar area; forces launch hunt for another militant

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Security forces on Tuesday foiled an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in J&K's Rajouri district, killing one unidentified terrorist during a brief exchange of fire, officials said.

The incident occurred in the forward areas of the Nowshera sector where troops detected suspicious movement near the LoC in the afternoon. Acting on intelligence inputs about possible infiltration, Army personnel launched a swift operation and challenged the suspected militants attempting to cross over from across the border, they said.

Officials said the encounter broke out around mid-afternoon in the Jhangar area after troops established contact with the infiltrators.

During the gunfight that followed, one terrorist was shot dead while another managed to take cover in the nearby forested terrain.

The Army's White Knight Corps said troops responded with "swift and calibrated action", preventing the group from breaching the LoC. The body of the terrorist has been recovered from the site.

Security forces have launched a search operation in the area to track down the second terrorist believed to be hiding nearby. Additional troops have been deployed and surveillance has been intensified along the LoC to prevent any further infiltration attempts.

Officials said the Rajouri–Poonch belt remains one of the sensitive infiltration routes because of its rugged terrain and dense forests, which terrorist often try to exploit to sneak across the border.

In recent years, security agencies have observed a shift in terrorist activity from the Kashmir Valley to parts of the Jammu region. While terror incidents in the Valley have declined significantly due to sustained counter-insurgency operations and tighter surveillance, attacks and infiltration attempts have increased in the hilly districts of Jammu such as Rajouri, Poonch, Doda, Kishtwar and Kathua.

Since October 2021, several deadly attacks have taken place in the Rajouri–Poonch belt, including ambushes on Army vehicles and encounters in forested areas. These incidents have claimed dozens of lives, including security personnel, and civilians.

Operations in the area were continuing late Tuesday evening to sanitise the region.

Kerala minister apologises to wife amid infidelity allegations

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Even as Kerala Transport Minister K B Ganesh Kumar apologised to his wife in a bid to wriggle out of the row over the infidelity and domestic violence allegations levelled against him, the opposition Congress, eyeing the upcoming Assembly polls, is trying to cash in on it.

K B Ganesh Kumar

On Tuesday, Ganesh Kumar's wife, Bindu Menon, said that since Kumar has apologised to her, the issue was settled between them. On Monday, she said that she had seen her husband in a "bad situation with a woman" and that she had suffered domestic violence.

Kumar, who attended the Cabinet Meeting and a public meeting, later during the day told reporters that there was no reason for him to resign. He was also learnt to have held talks with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

However, the Congress is raising the issue, highlighting Menon's allegations that she did not get help from the police.

Opposition leader V D Satheesan said that the pro-women stands of the LDF government would prove to be a farce unless stringent action was taken against the minister.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Sunny Joseph said that the CPM and outfits like the All India Democratic Women's Association should clarify their stand on the matter.

CBI summons DMK MLA in Karur rally stampede probe

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

The stampede at the TVK rally in Karur, which killed 41 people, has come back to haunt the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) issued a notice to the party's strongman V Senthil Balaji to join the probe.

The development comes as actor-politician Vijay has been asked to appear before the agency for the third time, seen as an attempt to bring the issue to the fore ahead of the elections and exert pressure on the fledgling party. Vijay has sought 15 days' time to appear before the agency, citing his party work ahead of the elections.

Balaji being asked to appear on March 17 is a significant development since he was not named in the case by the CBI or in the FIR filed by the Tamil Nadu Police. TVK has been alleging that Balaji was responsible for the stampede by pointing to his arrival at a hospital where people fainted at the rally were taken within minutes of the incident.

V Senthil Balaji

"I will appear before the CBI on March 17 and provide appropriate explanations to their questions," Balaji said in an X post on Tuesday.

Investigations gained political traction in October when TVK publicly accused the DMK of being behind the incident, which is why the party approached the Supreme Court seeking an independent probe.

Further, in January, state BJP chief Nainar Nagenthiran told a party rally, where Union Minister Amit Shah was present, that Balaji's role—as the DMK's strongman in western Tamil Nadu—in the stampede could not be ruled out.

Issuing summons to Vijay and Balaji, who hails from Karur, is seen as an attempt to bring the issue to the fore ahead of the elections. The BJP and AIADMK have been asking the DMK dispensation to take responsibility for the incident. However, the AIADMK changed its stance and now blames TVK after Vijay began criticising the party publicly.

The summons will also give enough fodder to the AIADMK and BJP to attack the DMK.

Gujarat govt launches portal to track safety of 1.5 lakh public assets

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: The Gujarat government announced on Tuesday the launch of the "Asset Safety Monitoring Portal" to ensure that public infrastructure does not endanger public safety. This comes in the wake of several bridge collapses in recent years.

"With this, all existing government and public infrastructure in the state—including roads, bridges, and buildings—will now be monitored in an integrated manner at the state level, ensuring that no infrastructure becomes a threat to the safety of the public," the Bhupendra Patel-led government said in a statement.

It claimed that the development was not merely a technical innovation but "a powerful demonstration of the government's compassion, transparency, and time-bound accountability."

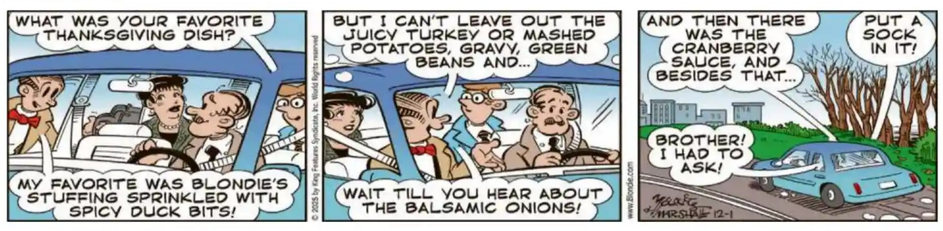
The government said that over 1.5 lakh public assets will be under integrated digital surveillance. This includes roads, bridges, government buildings, and other civic infrastructure across the state. They will be registered on a single centralised digital platform.

In the new system, field officers will have to upload their inspection reports and photographs on the portal. District collectors and municipal corporation commissioners will be required to conduct weekly, monthly, and quarterly reviews.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie


WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE THANKSGIVING DISH?
MY FAVORITE WAS BLONDIE'S STUFFING SPRINKLED WITH SPICY DUCK BITS!
BUT I CAN'T LEAVE OUT THE JUICY TURKEY OR MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY, GREEN BEANS AND...
WAIT TILL YOU HEAR ABOUT THE BALSAMIC ONIONS!
AND THEN THERE WAS THE CRANBERRY SAUCE, AND BESIDES THAT...
PUT A SOCK IN IT!
BROTHER! I HAD TO ASK!

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

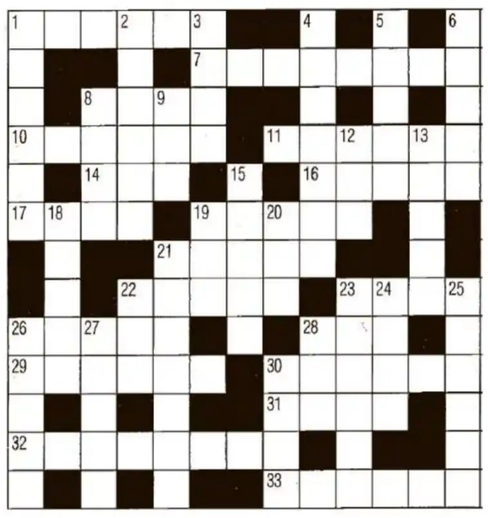
Peanuts

STILL HAVE MY BLANKET, I SEE...
OH, YES... I FIND IT A GREAT SOURCE OF COMFORT AND SECURITY
THANK YOU FOR GIVING IT TO ME, SWEET BABBOO...
HE'S NOT YOUR SWEET BABBOO!!

Marvin

I'M GOING TO BE LATE GETTING HOME TONIGHT
OKAY. SHOULD I SAVE THE MARSHMALLOW AND TUNA FISH CASSEROLE FOR WHEN YOU GET HOME?
NO, THANKS. THE CASSEROLE IS THE REASON I'M COMING HOME LATE

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12371



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Forename for a school head and artist? (6)
7 Turn up with the cash, darling, and that will partly cover you (8)
8 A not exactly safe place for coffee? (4)
10 No amateur figures to be long-winded (6)
11 Get the damaged boat in (6)
14 Railway timetable extract? (3)
16 Bachelor embracing a girl before marriage (5)
17 Behind the right ear (4)
19 One with news of a tame tiger? (5)
21 A cheap drink (5)
22 One flapping around the Rhone? (5)
23 Swimmer getting back in practice (4)
26 Plenty of supporters (5)
28 Talk out of turn again (3)
29 Only one club in a suit! (6)
30 Splendidly fly around, in a way (6)
31 Musical work, usually not American (4)
32 A better lake (8)
33 Though not wise, the message may merit discussion (6)

DOWN
1 A meal goes down fine, gathered round the piano (6)
2 In business, he'll give a hand (6)
3 Top in geometry (4)
4 Cry about one's flab? (7)
5 A road north associated with the birds (5)
6 Does a smooth job, like Jeremy (5)
8 In which to be unconscious of an optical fault? (4)
9 A leader of fashion gets it at the gym, perhaps (3)
12 Jack backs rate reduction (3)
13 Bring on what is able to become irremediable? (5)
15 Stick up some notable personage (5)
18 Is she from Sheffield? (5)
19 It's usual to make dad ringleader (3)
20 A writer to shut up? (3)
21 We get tough with a horse opera (7)
22 Father's girl? (3)
23 But he didn't rule the waves (6)
24 Starts to seem old and somehow sage (4)
25 On the quiet, yes, at certain points they receive money (6)
26 New shape stage (5)
27 If electric, 50 amperes (5)
28 What a pin-up might feel in the air? (3)
30 Because, at the revolutionary centre, there's a stronghold (4)

EASY

ACROSS
1 Foreign language (6)
7 Eastern (8)
8 Pith helmet (4)
10 Defeated (6)
11 Sullen (6)
14 Agent (3)
16 Manservant (5)
17 Hereditary unit (4)
19 Golf term (5)
21 Instruct (5)
22 Destined (5)
23 Nuisance (4)
26 Scornful expression (5)
28 Small amount (3)
29 Arrival, coming (6)
30 Martial art (6)
31 School test (4)
32 Without charge, slang (8)
33 Stylus (6)

DOWN
1 Car safety device (6)
2 Baby's soft shoe (6)
3 Metal money (4)
4 Get better (7)
5 Backless seat (5)
6 Precipitation (5)
8 Mountain lake (4)
9 High spirits, vitality (3)
12 Beam of light (3)
13 Dispatches (5)
15 Tribal badge (5)
18 Antelope (5)
19 However (3)
20 Deity (3)
21 Discolour (7)
22 Charge (3)
23 Exhibit or flaunt (6)
24 Dutch cheese (4)
25 From that time (6)
26 Brazilian dance (5)
27 Turn out, expel (5)
28 Levy (3)
30 Eager (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12370

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Sprig 6, (in)Sects 9, Diction(ary) 10, Ashen 11, Mi-ami 12, Cured 13, Sel-l out 15, Mat 17, Plus 18, Sal-ami 19, Silly 20, Accept 22, Saga 24, Yah 25, Milkman 26, Tr-O-on 27, Sto-a-t 28, C-L-ubs 29, Pa-inf-ul 30, Green 31, Ryder.
DOWN: 2, Pastel 3, Ideals 4, Gin 5, St.-out 6, S-ome d-ay 7, Enid 8, Tam-tam 12, Cut it 13, Spray 14, (the) Lurch 15, Madam (rev.) 16, Ti-tan 18, Slain 19, Sp-art-an 21, Canter 22, Skilly 23, Gamble 25, MO-un-T 26, Tape 28, Cur.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Baker 6, Limbo 9, Launder 10, Tulip 11, Aisle 12, Seats 13, Deliver 15, Pro 17, Unit 18, Meteor 19, Cedar 20, Editor 22, Scut 24, Sad 25, Compete 26, Foyer 27, Salon 28, Graph 29, Reveres 30, Beret 31, Legal.
DOWN: 2, Acumen 3, Elicit 4, Rap 5, Inter 6, Leather 7, Iris 8, Bolero 12, Sever 13, Dukes 14, Livid 15, Peace 16, Orate 18, Major 19, Coronet 21, Damage 22, Sparse 23, Utopia 25, Cedes 26, Fore 28, Gel.

◆SU-DO-KU-6851◆

		9				1	3	
				1		9		6
3							4	
	4		5	3			7	
9		2		4		3		8
	7			8	9		1	
	5							3
7		8		5				
	9	6				5		

hard

SOLUTION TO 6850

5	9	3	2	7	4	8	6	1
8	6	7	9	1	3	4	5	2
1	2	4	5	8	6	3	7	9
7	5	9	4	3	1	6	2	8
4	8	2	7	6	5	1	9	3
6	3	1	8	2	9	5	4	7
2	1	5	6	9	8	7	3	4
9	4	8	3	5	7	2	1	6
3	7	6	1	4	2	9	8	5

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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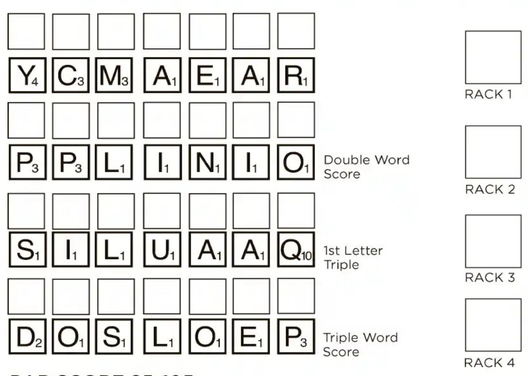

Y4 C3 M3 A1 E1 A1 R1
P3 P3 L1 I1 N1 I1 O1
Double Word Score
S1 I1 L1 U1 A1 A1 Q10
1st Letter Triple
D2 O1 S1 L1 O1 E1 P3
Triple Word Score
RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 95-105
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

D2 O1 W4 D2 Y4 — RACK 1 = 21
E1 M3 B3 O1 W4 E1 D2 — RACK 2 = 65
M3 O1 U1 T1 H4 E1 R1 — RACK 3 = 66
I1 N1 C3 L1 U1 D2 E1 — RACK 4 = 70
222

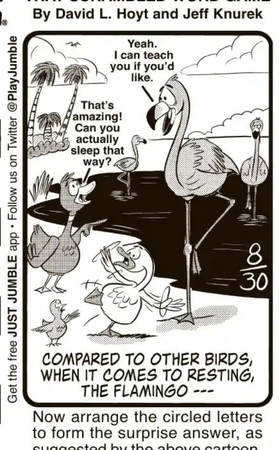
PAR SCORE 145-155 JUDD'S TOTAL

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CLUHG
ZUGEA
POLFYP
SACWEH


Yeah. I can teach you if you'd like.
That's amazing! Can you actually sleep that way?
8/30
COMPARED TO OTHER BIRDS, WHEN IT COMES TO RESTING, THE FLAMINGO ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HURRY FLUSH LOCALE INDIGO
Answer: They distributed the hospital attendants new uniforms in an — ORDERLY FASHION

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HITORI-3305

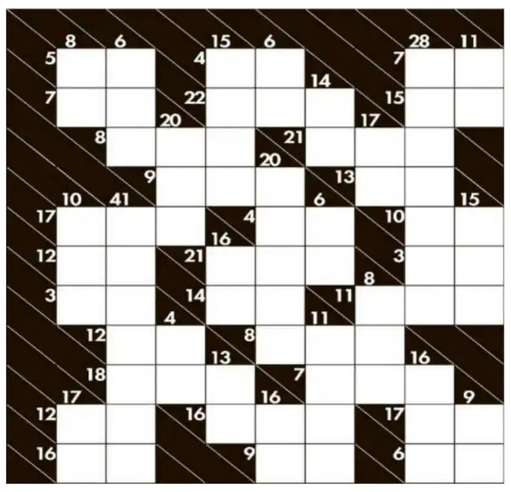
6	4	4	5	1	4	6	8
6	7	1	4	7	8	2	3
4	3	6	1	5	4	7	6
3	1	5	6	4	2	4	5
7	6	6	4	8	1	4	5
7	8	4	3	5	7	5	2
1	1	3	4	4	5	2	4
4	5	8	7	6	4	3	1

SOLUTION TO 3304

3	5	■	7	6	■	1	8
■	4	1	8	7	2	5	3
7	■	6	■	1	■	8	■
8	7	■	3	■	6	4	1
1	■	7	4	2	■	6	5
2	1	3	■	5	4	■	6
■	6	8	5	■	7	3	4
4	8	■	6	3	■	7	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

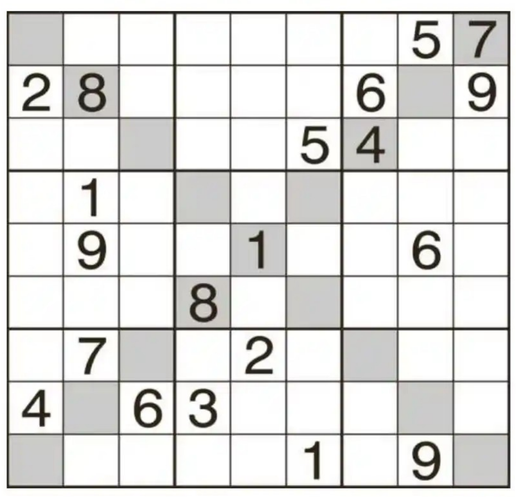
KAKURO- 3305



SOLUTION TO 3304

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3852



SOLUTION TO 3851

8	1	7	3	2	4	6	5	9
4	6	9	5	1	7	3	8	2
3	2	5	9	6	8	7	4	1
5	9	3	4	8	1	2	7	6
6	7	8	2	3	5	9	1	4
1	4	2	6	7	9	8	3	5
9	8	4	7	5	2	1	6	3
7	5	6	1	9	3	4	2	8
2	3	1	8	4	6	5	9	7

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Iran vows to block Gulf oil; US talks of 'most intense strikes'

Oil prices surge again as Iran, US and Israel escalate attacks

TEHRAN, AFP

Iran vowed on Tuesday that not one litre of oil would be exported from the Gulf while the US and Israel continue their bombardment, as the United Arab Emirates closed its biggest oil refinery after a drone attack.

Israeli forces, meanwhile, announced a new wave of attacks on Tehran, while the US also stepped up its air and missile assault.

"Today will again be our most intense day of strikes inside Iran," US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said at the Pentagon on Tuesday morning.

The exchanges of fire will heighten fears of economic instability, with traders and energy policymakers nervously following events in the Gulf, the source of around a fifth of global oil and gas supplies.

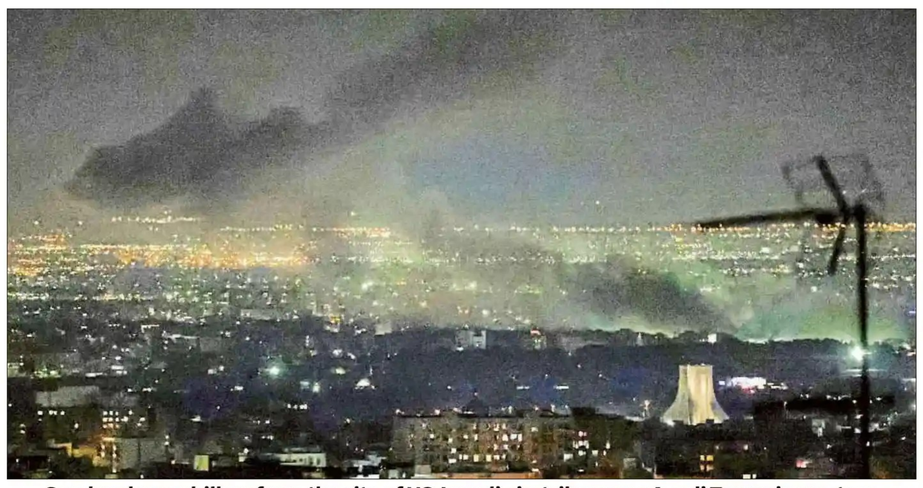
Oil prices have surged since Iranian attacks on shipping closed the Strait of Hormuz in the wake of US-Israeli strikes that killed Iran's supreme leader, but they fell back slightly on Monday when US President Donald Trump suggested the war would soon end.

Prices began rising again on Tuesday amid renewed threats and violence, following a week of attacks on oil infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the UAE and around the Gulf.

The region's biggest single-site oil refinery, at Ruwais in the UAE, was closed on Tuesday as a precaution after a drone attack on the industrial complex housing it caused a fire, a source familiar with the situation said.

"The Strait of Hormuz will either be a strait of peace and prosperity for all or will be a strait of defeat and suffering for warmongers," Iran's security chief Ali Larijani declared.

The price increase also followed strikes on oil depots in Iran and attacks on oil infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and around the Gulf, which continued on Tuesday, with explosions heard in Doha.



Smoke plumes billow from the site of US-Israeli airstrikes near Azadi Tower in western Tehran on Tuesday. AFP

Putin calls for swift de-escalation

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday called for a swift de-escalation in West Asia in a call with his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian, PTI reports from Moscow.

The call came as the US and Israel, and Iran maintain a cycle of retaliatory strikes, including on neighbouring Gulf nations. "The Russian President reaffirmed his principled position in favour of a swift de-escalation of the conflict and its resolution through political means. Pezeshkian thanked Russia for its support, particularly for providing humanitarian aid to Iran," the Kremlin said.

UK downs drones

Meanwhile, British warplanes have begun "defensive air sorties" in support of the United Arab Emirates and taken out drones elsewhere in West Asia, the UK defence ministry said.

The development came as Britain's response to the conflict was under criticism, including from the US president and the Cypriot government. More US B-52 bombers landed at the UK Air Force base in Fairford on Monday and they will later be deployed in West Asia.

Iran launches new attacks targeting Israel, Gulf states

DUBAI, AP/PTI: Iran launched new attacks on Tuesday against Israel and Gulf Arab countries as it kept up pressure across West Asia in a war started by Israel and the United States that has rattled global markets and shows no signs of easing.

In Bahrain, authorities said an Iranian attack hit a residential building in the capital, Manama, killing a 29-year-old woman and wounding eight people. Saudi Arabia said it destroyed two drones over its oil-rich eastern region, and Kuwait's National Guard said it shot down six drones.

In the United Arab Emirates, firefighters battled a blaze in the industrial city of Ruwais—home to petrochemical plants — after an Iranian drone strike. No injuries were reported.

Sirens also sounded in Jerusalem, and sounds of explosions could be heard in Tel Aviv as Israel's defence systems worked to intercept barrages from Iran.

At the Pentagon, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth warned that Tuesday "will be yet again our most intense day of strikes inside Iran: the most fighters, the most bombers, the most strikes, intelligence more refined and better than ever."

Shortly before the statement, he said: "The last 24 hours have seen Iran fire the lowest amount of missiles they have fired yet."

Gen Dan Caine, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said US forces had hit more than 5,000 targets and that their three objectives included the destruction of Iranian ballistic missile and drone capability; hitting Iran's navy to allow movement through the Strait of Hormuz; and striking "deeper into Iran's military and industrial base".

The rhetoric was equally sharp from Tehran. Iran's parliament speaker, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, said on X that Iran was "definitely not looking for a ceasefire".

MISSILE SITES

■ The US is using B-2 stealth bombers to strike Iran's missile infrastructure, with the aircraft dropping 2,000-pound bunker-busting bombs on deeply buried missile sites in an effort to dismantle Tehran's missile production capabilities, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said.

Trump signals mixed messages

DUBAI, AP/PTI

US President Donald Trump said on Monday that the war against Iran could be short-lived, but he left open the possibility of escalation if global oil supplies are disrupted by the Islamic Republic, which has chosen a new hard-line supreme leader.

Oil prices briefly shot to their highest level since 2022 a day after Iran selected Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei to succeed his late father as Iran's supreme leader. Investors saw it as a signal that Iran was digging in 10 days into the war.

But prices later fell and US stocks rose on hopes that the war with Iran may not last much longer. "We took a little excursion" to West Asia "to get rid of some evil. And, I think you will see it is going to be a short-term excursion," Trump told Republican lawmakers at his golf club near Miami.

Hours later, Trump posted on social media: "If Iran does anything that stops the flow of oil within the Strait of Hormuz, they will be hit by the US TWENTY TIMES HARDER than they have been hit thus far." In an apparent response to Trump's remarks, a spokesperson for the Revolutionary Guard, Ali Mohammad Naini, said: "Iran will determine when the war ends."

US proposed Ukraine-Russia talks next week, says Zelenskyy

KYIV, AFP: The United States has proposed another round of Russia-Ukraine talks, mediated by Washington, on ending four years of war next week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Tuesday.

Two rounds of trilateral talks failed to reach any breakthrough to end Europe's worst conflict since WWII, launched by Moscow in 2022. Zelenskyy said in an audio message sent to reporters, including AFP, that talks -- initially planned for last week in the United Arab Emirates -- had been postponed until next week by the United States.

"This was proposed by the American side, but we'll see what happens in the Middle East, to be honest," Zelenskyy told journalists, adding that the meeting "could be in Switzerland or Turkey."

The Ukrainian leader had earlier held a telephone call with Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan who offered to host the talks, Zelenskyy's office announced.

Zelenskyy said he had also discussed the war in Iran with Erdogan, who has maintained ties with both Kyiv and Moscow during the war.

Bangladesh receives diesel from India via pipeline

5,000 tonnes arrive as Dhaka seeks to bolster reserves

DHAKA, PTI

Bangladesh has begun receiving diesel from India, with an initial supply of 5,000 tonnes expected by Wednesday, an official said on Tuesday, amid growing concerns about a fuel shortage due to the ongoing crisis in West Asia.

"We have started receiving diesel since Monday afternoon at the Parbatipur depot in northwestern Dinajpur from Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) in Assam through the Bangladesh-India Friendship Pipeline," a Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) spokesman said.

He said it could take nearly 45 hours to pump the 5,000 tonnes of diesel, meaning the process might continue until Wednesday evening.

"We are pumping about 113 tonnes of oil here every hour," he added. Earlier, Bangladesh said India would send 5,000 tonnes of diesel under a long-term agreement and as part of an annual arrangement to deliver 180,000 tonnes.

The supply began shortly after Indian High Commissioner Pranay Kumar Verma said New Delhi was actively considering Bangladesh's request for additional diesel as Dhaka sought to enhance its fuel reserves amid ongoing energy supply concerns.

"Bangladesh is a very important friend of India, and we want to provide all possible support for its progress," he said when asked about India's response to Dhaka's request for extra diesel supplies.

The envoy said India was "reviewing the request positively". The Bangladesh-India Friendship Pipeline is about 131 km long and stretches from the Siliguri Marketing Terminal in India to the Parbatipur depot in Dinajpur. Diesel is transported directly through the pipeline.

The pipeline was inaugurated in March 2023 during the government of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Balendra Shah vows to deepen ties with India

KATHMANDU, PTI

Rastriya Swatantra Party's (RSP) prime ministerial candidate Balendra Shah on Tuesday expressed confidence in further deepening "historic" Nepal-India ties and making them more "outcome-oriented".

The 35-year-old rapper-turned-politician is set to become Nepal's first Madhesi prime minister and also the Himalayan nation's youngest elected executive head.

Shah made the remarks in a social media post while thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his wishes on the party's electoral success. "Thank you for the good wishes, Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji," he said in the post.

"I express my confidence that we will work together to further strengthen, deepen and make the historic, close and multidimensional relations existing between Nepal and India more outcome-oriented in the coming days," he said.

Rastriya Swatantra Party leader Balendra Shah. AFP FILE

The RSP, formed in 2022, has won 125 of the 165 seats under direct voting in Nepal's parliamentary polls as vote counting under the first-past-the-post (FPTP) system concluded on Tuesday, putting it in a position to form a majority government. Modi on Monday congratulated RSP chief Rabi Lamichhane and senior party leader Shah on their election victory, and conveyed India's commitment to work with them for the mutual prosperity, progress and well-being of the two countries.

Shah defeated four-time prime minister K P Sharma Oli by a huge margin in the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist) stronghold of the Jhapa-5 constituency.

In his social media post, Shah also congratulated the Indian government and people for "successfully winning the World Cup title for two consecutive times". India won the T20 World Cup on Sunday, defeating New Zealand by 96 runs in the final held in Ahmedabad, while also becoming the first side to win the title on three occasions

UK condemns religious hatred as 'abhorrent' after 'thugs' target Holi event

LONDON, PTI: The UK government has condemned any form of religious hatred as "abhorrent" after the targeting of a group of British Hindus gathered for a Holi celebration in north-west London was raised in Parliament.

Opposition Conservative Party MP Bob Blackman asked the Labour government to intervene to "cool community tensions" after a group of "thugs" disrupted an annual celebration of Holi at an old Civic Centre car park site in his constituency of Harrow last week.

Blackman, who chairs the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for British Hindus, called for an official statement in the House of Commons to reassure his constituents.

"This event has been run for many years. It is a joyful occasion, and more than a thousand people attended," Blackman told MPs.

"However, thugs from the Central Mosque left the mosque and then decided to disrupt proceedings by pulling over the speakers and disconnecting the audio system. They were then chased away by stewards. That was bad enough.

"They then came back with 20 more thugs and attempted to attack the people celebrating. This is in Harrow where we have excellent community relations, and I hope this will not happen anywhere else or again. But the sad reality is community tensions are rising because of various different things across the world, and it is our responsibility as politicians to cool things down," he said.

Blackman called on the Leader of the Commons, Alan Campbell, for tangible steps to ensure that people can "celebrate in peace and harmony".

"I am sad to hear of the disruption that happened at celebrations in Harrow," responded Campbell.

Family sues ChatGPT-maker OpenAI over school shooting

VANCOUVER, AP/PTI: The parents of a girl critically wounded in a school shooting in Canada alleged in a civil lawsuit on Monday that ChatGPT-maker OpenAI knew the shooter was planning a mass attack.

OpenAI has said it considered but did not alert police about the activities of the person who, months later, committed one of Canada's worst school shootings in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia, on February 10.

OpenAI came forward to the police after Jesse Van Roostselaar killed eight people and then herself last month, saying the attacker's ChatGPT account had been closed but that she evaded the ban by having a second account.

The legal claim filed in the British Columbia Supreme Court alleged that OpenAI had "specific knowledge of the shooter utilising ChatGPT to plan a mass casualty event like the Tumbler Ridge mass shooting".

POWER SOURCE

Citing 'strategic mistake', EU pivots back to nuclear energy

BRUSSELS, AFP

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen on Tuesday said Europe's turn away from nuclear power had been a "strategic mistake", as soaring oil prices rekindled concerns about the bloc's energy vulnerability.

Speaking at a nuclear summit in Paris, the European Commission president endorsed a return to atomic energy, saying the European Union would back investments in "innovative nuclear technologies".

"It was a strategic mistake for Europe to turn its back on a reliable, affordable source of low-emission power," she said.

The US-Israeli strikes on Iran and Tehran's retaliatory attacks across the Gulf region have upended the world's energy and transport sectors, virtually halting activity in the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz.

EU officials said the situation has not yet reached the crisis levels seen after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022.

But the conflict has rekindled a debate over the bloc's external dependencies and high energy costs, which European industry has long said hamper competitiveness vis-à-vis Asia and North America.

"For fossil fuels, we are completely dependent on expensive and volatile imports. They are putting us at a structural disadvantage to other regions," von der Leyen said at the Paris summit, which aims to boost the use of civilian nuclear energy.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

US Patriot missile defence systems at a US army base in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, on Tuesday. REUTERS

N Korea warns of consequences over US–South Korea drills

▸ The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Tuesday criticised the United States and South Korea for proceeding with their annual joint military exercises at a perilous moment for global security, and warned that any challenge to the North's safety would bring "terrible consequences", AP/PTI reports from Seoul.

The statement by Kim Yo Jong came a day after the allies started their 11-day Freedom Shield exercise involving thousands of troops, while Washington is engaged in an escalating war in West Asia. Without directly referring to the Iran war, Kim said the US–South Korea drills undermine regional stability at a time when the global security structure is "collapsing rapidly, and wars are breaking out in different parts of the world due to the reckless acts of outrageous international rogues". Freedom Shield is one of two annual command post exercises conducted by the militaries of the US and South Korea. The largely computer-simulated drills are designed to test the allies' joint operational capabilities while incorporating evolving war scenarios and security challenges.

Gunfire at US Consulate in Toronto

▸ Canadian police are investigating reports that the US Consulate in downtown Toronto was hit by gunfire early on Tuesday morning, AP/PTI reports from Toronto.

No injuries have been reported. Toronto police said they responded to reports at around 5.30 am that someone had fired a gun at the US Consulate. In a post on social media, police said they were at the scene near University Avenue and Queen Street West. "Evidence of a firearm discharge has been located," police said in the post. No suspect information has been released. The reported shooting comes after two Toronto-area synagogues were struck by gunfire last weekend.

An activist holds a sign in protest at the IAEA Nuclear Energy Summit in Paris on Tuesday. REUTERS

Search at Epstein's former ranch

▸ Investigators in New Mexico began searching on Monday the former ranch of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, as part of a probe into allegations that women and girls were abused there, AFP reports from Washington.

The search is the latest fallout from the publication in January by the US Justice Department of millions of files related to the late financier, which mention the "Zorro ranch" thousands of times. "This search is part of the criminal investigation announced by the New Mexico Department of Justice on February 19th into allegations of illegal activity at Epstein's ranch prior to Epstein's 2019 death," the New Mexico Department of Justice said in a statement. New Mexico Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury said the state's justice department was leaving "no stone unturned" in the search.

Haiti drone strikes kill over 1,200

▸ Drones operated by Haitian security forces and private contractors have killed at least 1,243 people and injured 738 others, Human Rights Watch said on Tuesday, AP/PTI reports from San Jose (Costa Rica).

Of those killed, 17 were children, and 43 were adults not believed to be members of any criminal group. Of those injured, at least 49 were believed to be civilians, according to the rights group. The killings took place between March 1, 2025, and Jan. 21, 2026. The most lethal drone operation killed 57 people, it noted. "Haitian authorities should urgently rein in the security forces and private contractors working for them before more children die," Juanita Goebertus, Americas director at Human Rights Watch, said.

Actress Ana De Armas poses during a photocall for the Louis Vuitton Women's Ready to Wear collection at the Paris Women Fashion Week on Tuesday. AFP

Apple now makes about 25% of iPhones in India after China pivot

Apple assembled about 55 million iPhones in India in 2025

BLOOMBERG

Apple Inc. increased iPhone production in India by about 53% last year and now makes a quarter of its marquee devices there, reflecting the US company's efforts to avoid tariffs on China.

The company assembled about 55 million iPhones in India in 2025, up from 36 million a year earlier, people familiar with the matter said, asking not to be named because the numbers aren't public. Apple makes about 220 million to 230 million iPhones a year globally, with India's share of the total increasing rapidly.

Apple has accelerated its expansion in the world's most populous country in recent years, bolstered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's production-linked incentives aimed at turning India into the world's factory. The subsidies have helped offset some of the structural cost disadvantages that manufacturers face in India, including the lack of a China-like robust supply chain and logistics challenges.

In 2025, shipments from China, where Apple still makes the bulk of iPhones, faced headwinds as a result of US tariffs related to the two economic powers' trade war. The levies pushed Apple and its suppliers to move a greater share of devices meant for the American market to alternative manufacturing destinations, with India emerging as a major brightspot.

Apple iPhone

An Apple spokesperson declined to comment.

Even though the gap has narrowed, electronics assembly and component manufacturing still costs more in India than in countries including China and Vietnam. That's prompted Apple, Samsung Electronics Co. and others to seek more government support.

Companies are discussing with New Delhi another round of incentives to support export growth. India's current production subsidies for smartphones expire on March 31 and with the US Supreme Court striking down some of the duties affecting China, India needs to move quickly to remain cost competitive.

Cupertino, California-based Apple currently assembles all versions of the latest iPhone 17 lineup in India, including the high-end Pro and Pro Max models. Its suppliers in India, including Foxconn Technology Group, Tata Electronics and Pegatron Corp., also build older models such as the iPhone 15 and iPhone 16 for local sales and export.

The rising output in India highlights Apple's long-term supply chain strategy to build a second major iPhone manufacturing base to serve global demand. The company is deepening and widening its local supplier partnerships to make components including lithium-ion cells, watch and phone enclosures and accessories such as AirPods.

Beyond manufacturing, Apple is targeting market share gains in a region where sales have surged past $9 billion. It's preparing to launch Apple Pay in India later this year and its retail network now comprises six stores, underscoring the country's growing importance as not just a production hub but also a fast-growing consumer market.

West Asia crisis: Govt weighs insurance support to exporters

Indian shipments have been badly hit due to the conflict

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Indian government is likely to come out with insurance support measures to help exporters affected due to ongoing war in West Asia, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday.

Talking to reporters, Goyal said an inter-ministerial group is monitoring the evolving situation on a daily basis.

He said the customs department has come out with norms for dealing with export cargo returning to Indian ports due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and disruptions in maritime routes due to the US-Israel-Iran war.

"We are looking to develop some new schemes like insurance support. We are consulting ECGC (Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India) and other departments on that," he said.

The minister added that the government was also examining ways to support exporters whose consignments have already been shipped but are facing difficulties due to the war in West Asia.

The Indian shipments have been badly hit due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia, which is a major export destination for India.

Piyush Goyal

According to the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), freight cost of Indian exporters has surged by around 300% due to the West Asia crisis. Trade bodies have been pitching for interest subvention and freight subsidy to tide over the crisis.

Exporters dealing in food items are among the worst hit. India exported $11.8 billion worth of agricultural and food products to the West Asia region in 2025. Cereals, fruits, vegetables and spices dominate India's exports basket to the Gulf region.

Meanwhile, speaking at the International Food & Hospitality fair, Goyal said India's annual food and agricultural exports have reached Rs 5 lakh crore ($55 billion), the seventh largest globally.

He noted that in the eleven year period from 2014 to 2025, India's agri and food exports witnessed significant growth. Exports of processed foods have increased four-fold, fruit and pulses exports have tripled, processed vegetable exports have quadrupled, cocoa exports have tripled, and cereal exports have doubled. Rice exports alone have grown by 62% during this period, he said.

Goyal claimed that nine Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) concluded by India over the past three and a half years have opened access to 38 developed and prosperous countries, providing vast market opportunities for Indian exporters.

India today has preferential market access covering nearly two-thirds of global trade, which strengthens India's position as an attractive investment destination and enables Indian businesses to integrate into global value chains, he added.

Govt eases FDI norms for China, other nations

New guidelines will provide clarity and facilitate investments

NEW DELHI, PTI

The government on Tuesday eased foreign direct investment (FDI) norms for China and other countries sharing land borders with India by allowing overseas firms having up to 10% shareholder from these nations to invest in the country without mandatory approval.

Earlier, overseas firms with shareholders from these nations owning even a single share had to seek mandatory approval to invest in India in any sector.

However, other conditions of FDI norms, including sectoral caps and entry routes, will be applicable to these investments.

Also, these investments will be subjected to prior reporting of information/details to the DPIIT (department for promotion of industry and internal trade).

The government has amended the press note 3 of 2020 in this regard. The decision was taken in a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The amendment in the press note provides for a definition and criteria for the determination of 'Beneficial Ownership' that is widely used by the investing community, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Rules, 2003.

The beneficial ownership test will be applied at the level of the investor entity.

"Investors with non-controlling land border countries (LBC), beneficial ownership of up to 10% shall be permitted under the automatic route as per the applicable sectoral caps, entry routes, attendant conditions," an official statement said.

The government has also decided on expeditious clearance of investment proposals from LBCs in specific sectors.

Under this, proposals for LBC investments in specified sectors/activities of manufacturing in capital goods, electronic capital goods, electronic components, polysilicon and ingot-wafer or any other sector/activity added by the committee of secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary will be processed and decided within 60 days.

Countries that share land borders with India are China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, and Afghanistan.

Escalation could take form of cyberwarfare, analysts warn

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Amazon Web Services (AWS) data centres in the UAE and Bahrain were recently disrupted due to drone strikes, and experts said data centres are being seen as strategic targets, and that escalation could also take the form of cyberwarfare.

Data centres contain the computing infrastructure that IT systems require and strikes such as these expose the vulnerability of key technology infrastructure.

These attacks, though may not impact IT services firms directly, analysts said West Asia has been one of the fastest-growing regions for Indian IT and it is strategically important. "The bigger impact, however, is indirect. Escalation could take the form of cyberwarfare or even physical attacks on critical infrastructure like data centres, which can disrupt cloud services and cascade into enterprise operations globally. Add the risk of oil shocks, and this becomes less a regional revenue issue and more a global demand

and resilience challenge for Indian IT," Saurabh Gupta, president, Research and Advisory Services for HFS Research, told *DH*.

Recently, Gartner pointed out that the convergence of macro forces, such as rising AI adoption, geopolitical tensions, and regulatory volatility, is prompting organisations to rethink resilience planning and resource allocation.

According to Gupta, AI is reshaping delivery economics, and geopolitics adds another layer of uncertainty. If oil prices spike or macro conditions tighten, discretionary tech spending could slow again. However, firms that pivot to outcome-based AI services, cybersecurity, and resilience-led transformation will emerge stronger. This is more a test of adaptability than an existential setback.

He also said that for Indian IT services firms, West Asia is not the largest revenue pool, but it has been one of the fastest-growing, driven by sovereign digital programs, energy-sector modernisation and overall investments in the region. "In the near term, firms should double down on cybersecurity, cloud resilience, and business continuity assurance for clients. Localisation, sovereign-compliant offerings, and resilience-focused solutions will be key. In uncertain times, spending shifts from transformation to protection and Indian IT must align accordingly," he said.

IT industry body Nasscom on Monday asked members to be vigilant of cybersecurity attacks amidst West Asia conflict. It said that organisations are evaluating alternate infrastructure routing to ensure cloud and data centre resilience and safeguard critical systems.

GCCs contribute 73% of new IT employment growth: Report

BENGALURU, DHNS: IT staffing witnessed new employment growth at 2.3% in the third quarter of FY26 (October to December 2025), and IT/consulting sector rebound was driven by Tier-2 tech firms and GCCs (Global Capability Centres) leading sequential recovery. GCCs contributed 73% of new IT employment growth with AI, cloud, cybersecurity, and platform engineering roles, according to the Indian Staffing Federation (ISF) Q3 2025-26 Flexi Staffing Employment Trends Report.

Released on Tuesday, the report highlighted that GCCs, e-commerce, and Logistics remained key drivers. It revealed a complex landscape for an industry that grew 4.4% YoY (Q3 26 vs Q3 25) to reach a total of 1.91 million formal workers. While the sector added 69,000 new jobs over the last four quarters—driven largely by festive demand in e-commerce, logistics, FMCG, and healthcare—it simultaneously experienced a marginal 0.5% QoQ (Q3 26 vs Q2 26) dip.

"This transition from previous double-digit expansion to the current 4.4% rate is viewed as alarming, as it signals a visible and significant slowdown in the pace of formal employment expansion. Ultimately, this cooling hiring sentiment underscores a shift toward more cautious growth, emphasising that while flexible models remain central to India's organised workforce, a more focused strategic approach is now required to sustain the momentum of formalisation in a tightening labour market," the report said.

Lohit Bhatia, President of the ISF said, "The 4.4% growth in flexi-staffing underscores a resilient model that remains the primary engine for India's formalisation, particularly for the 59% of new workers aged 18–25 entering the formal fold."

He anticipates a robust return to hiring-led growth in Q4 and Q1FY27.

Fiscal deficit as percentage of GDP revised upwards

NEW DELHI, PTI: The fiscal deficit as a percentage of GDP for three financial years till 2024-25 has been revised upwards following the revision in base year for calculation of GDP, the government informed Parliament on Tuesday.

As per the new GDP Series published on February 27, the fiscal deficit as a percentage of GDP works out to be 4.9% for 2024-25, 5.7% for 2023-24, and 6.7% for 2022-23, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

The fiscal deficit was earlier estimated at 4.8% for FY'25, 5.63% for FY'24 and 6.4% for FY'23. In absolute term, fiscal deficit stood at Rs 15.74 lakh crore in FY'25, Rs 16.55 lakh crore in FY'24 and Rs 17.38 lakh crore in FY'23.

On February 27, the government released the new series of GDP.

Gopalakrishnan for investment in large-scale reskilling

BENGALURU, DHNS: Infosys co-founder and CII Past President Kris Gopalakrishnan said that Artificial Intelligence will displace jobs. He cited World Economic Forum (WEF) data that said 85 million jobs will be displaced globally by 2025-2027, and that AI and automation will simultaneously create 97 million new roles, resulting in a net increase of 12 million jobs.

Kris Gopalakrishnan

Though the net may be positive, Gopalakrishnan pointed out that the person who loses a data entry job today cannot automatically become a promot engineer tomorrow. Delivering the keynote address here on Tuesday at the CII Karnataka State Annual Meeting 2025-26, he said that India has a particular challenge, as we have a vast workforce in routine cognitive tasks, back office processing, basic customer service, document handling, and entry-level accounting. These are precisely the tasks that AI automates, and many of these workers are in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities with limited access to retraining infrastructure. "The visible impact will be felt meaningfully within five to 10 years. This is not a problem for our successors, it is ours," he said.

Gopalakrishnan also said that three things must happen at scale- reskilling, social security frameworks calibrated to the speed of AI adoption and education reforms. He also said that AI is a transformative technology that will fundamentally redefine what is possible for economies, industries, and societies.

Pieter Elbers steps down as IndiGo CEO

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Three months after the airline's service went into a tailspin following mismanagement, IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers on Tuesday resigned from the post with immediate effect citing "personal reasons" while promoter Rahul Bhatia took charge of the management of affairs as an "interim" measure.

The InterGlobe Aviation Ltd, which runs IndiGo, informed the stock exchange that the board of directors has accepted his resignation and decision to relieve him of the service by the close of business hours of the day. It also said Managing Director Bhatia will assume management of affairs of the company in the interim.

In his resignation letter to Bhatia, Elbers said, "as per our conversation, due to personal reasons, I herewith submit my resignation from the position of CEO of IndiGo with immediate effect from today. I would request that the notice period may be waived off."

He said it has been "both an honour and privilege" to serve as the CEO since September 2022 and being part of the "great IndiGo family, its beautiful growth story and the steps we have made together in this".

Pieter Elbers

IndiGo witnessed cancellation of its 2,507 flights and delays of 1,852 flights between December 3 and 5, inconveniencing thousands of fliers, as the airline could not assign adequate crew to operate services due to revised Flight Duty Time Limitation, which allowed enhanced rest time for pilots.

The disruption prompted a probe by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), which imposed a penalty of Rs 22.20 crore on IndiGo and directed it to furnish a Rs 50-crore bank guarantee to ensure long-term systemic correction. The probe had found that over-optimisation of operations and inadequate regulatory preparedness by the airline led to the disruption.

It also "cautioned" Elbers for "inadequate overall oversight" of flight operations.

CONSTRUCTION SLOWDOWN

Housing sales hit in Dubai as war continues

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The West Asia conflict is likely to cause a short-term sales moderation as buyers have paused purchases, especially off-plan units by Indian developers. However, Dubai's resilient fundamentals and 6-8% yields suggest a quick recovery post-clarity.

"At this point, we do not expect a structural downturn. That said, the situation remains fluid and is influenced by factors and people who are not necessarily very predictable," said Prashant Thakur, Executive Director & Head - Research Advisory, ANAROCK Group.

Dubai's real estate market depends heavily on international investors and expatriate residents. Any perception of rising geopolitical risk can lead investors to temporarily adopt a wait-and-watch approach. Such sentiment shifts typically affect off-plan purchases and speculative investments first, as these segments are more sensitive to market confidence, Thakur said.

ANAROCK data shows Indians dominated Dubai's residential market in 2025, accounting for 23% of foreign transactions (up from 12% in 2023). Indians and people of Indian origin accounted for housing purchases worth Rs 85,000-95,000 crore of the $250 billion in total real estate deals across all asset classes.

Real estate developers also expect a recalibration in prices as buyers opt for a 'wait and watch' scenario.

Vickram Anand, MD, Emperors Capital Services, Dubai, said, "The current 'wait-and-see' sentiment, triggered by regional geopolitics, has created a healthy recalibration, particularly in the luxury and off-plan segments, where we anticipate selective 20–25% price

adjustments. This is not a downturn; it is a rare tactical entry point for serious investors."

"My advice is clear: existing investors should hold, while those on the sidelines should view the next few months as one of the strongest windows we have seen since 2020 to deploy capital at scale," he added.

The recent flare-up between Iran and Israel has understandably created nervousness among investors worldwide, including those looking to invest in Dubai, said Abhishek Raj, Founder & CEO of Jenika Ventures.

Bengaluru-based developer Puravankara is witnessing an uptick in enquiries from NRIs looking to buy a home back in India while continuing to work in Dubai.

"It is too early, and we don't think such decisions will be made so soon. Puravankara has seen an uptick in enquiries from NRIs, but this could be attributed to the fact that we are in the middle of project launches, rather than regional developments. We believe that eventually, some people who earlier wished to stay permanently in Dubai or other cities in the UAE may reconsider their decision. They could choose to own a home in India while continuing to work there," said Mallanna Sasalu, CEO-South, Puravankara Limited.

Dhruv Sarkar, Chief Business Operations & Sahil Marshall, Chief Wealth Maker at Bhaarat Wealth Group, said increased geopolitical tensions in West Asia, especially in markets like Dubai and the UAE, frequently cause investors to reevaluate the security of their capital. An estimated 35–40% of property purchases in Dubai's real estate market are made by Indian investors, who contribute significantly to the flow of capital into these areas. A portion of this capital tends to return to domestic opportunities during uncertain times.

Some of the prominent Grade-A Indian developers with presence in Dubai/UAE include Sobha Group, Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate, Sunteck Realty, and Casagrand, among others.

Aditya John, Founder & Director, HowToDXB Real Estate, said investor sentiment is currently dented, and a slowdown in housing sales across Dubai and other UAE cities is imminent in the short term.

Waking Thunder wins feature

HYDERABAD RESULTS

Waking Thunder, from the stables of Vittal Deshmukh and ridden by Ajeeth Kumar, won the Common Land Plate, the feature event of the Hyderabad races on Tuesday.

1. Sir Bruce Plate - 1400M: Wolf Creek (Imran Isa Sayeed) BR Kumar 1; Cape May (Ajay Kumar) 2; Sadiya (HM Akshay) 3; Lego (Ashhad Asbar) 4; Wb: 2, 5-3/4, 2L. T: 1:27.48. TB: RH Sequeira. Fav: Lego.

2. Jangaonc Plate - 1200M: Sharanga (Shantanu Sharma) Antony Raj 1; La Quinta (Ajay Kumar) 2; Analysis (Akshay Kumar) 3; Moonlite Rose (Imran Chisty) 4; Wb: 3-1/4, Nk, 7-1/4L.T: 1:13.31. TB: Bharath Singh. Fav: Sharanga.

3. Abreder Plate - 1100M: Greif (Mukund Kakani) Yash Narredu 1; Aquatone (Ashhad Asbar) 2; Aditya (Rafique SK) & Catch The Worm (BR Kumar) Dht; Wb: 2-3/4, 2-1/2L, Dht. T: 1:06.66. TB: Prasad Raju. Fav: Greif.

4. Crown Treasure Plate - 1400M: Northern Waves (Narender Reddy) Antony Raj 1; Knight Regent (Akshay Kumar) 2; Corte Madera (Ajay Kumar) 3; Pride Aside (B Nikhil) 4; Wb: 2, 3/4, 4-3/4L. T: 1:25.33. TB: Shashikanth. Fav: Northern Waves.

5. Srisailam Plate - 1200M: Dardanus (Joydeep Dutta Gupta) Antony Raj 1; Master Class (Imran Chisty) 2; Toshiro (Akshay Kumar) 3; Modin (Ajeeth Kumar) 4; Wb: 1, 1, 1-1/4L. T: 1:13.67. TB: Bharath Singh. Fav: Toshiro.

6. Common Land Plate - 1200M: Walking Thunder (Aditya Thackersey) Ajeeth Kumar 1; Timless Vision (Kuldeep Singh) 2; Cherie Chevalier (Yash Narredu) 3; Azrinaz (Sai Kumar) 4; Wb: Nk, Shd, 1-1/2L. T: 1:12.00. TB: Vittal Deshmukh. Fav: Cherie Chevalier.

7. Saroornagar Plate - 1200M: Red Hot Punch (Rannop Kumar Reddy) Ajeeth Kumar 1; Exclusive Luck (Antony Raj) 2; Deccan Ranger (B Nikhil) 3; Dhanadeepa (Dhanu Deora) 4; Wb: 3, 3-1/2, 3-3/4L. T: 1:15.58. TB: Ananth Vatsalya. Fav: Exclusive Luck.

Bengaluru dividends:

I race: Rs 76w; 24, 14, 50p; Fc: Rs 497; Q: Rs 157; Shp: Rs 42; Thp: Rs 92; Tri: Rs 16,803 & 7,201; . Ex: Rs 35,833 (c/o) & 15,356.

II race: Rs 29w; 12, 21, 26p; Fc: Rs 145; Q: Rs 82; Shp: Rs 48; Thp: Rs 66; Tri: Rs 298 & 67; Ex: Rs 1,782 & 891.

III race: Rs 12w; 11, 42, 132p; Fc: Rs 168; Q: Rs 159; Shp: Rs 137;, Thp: Rs 177 & 21. Tri: Rs 348 & 348; Ex: Rs 17,268 & 17,268.

IV race: Rs 22w; 12, 11, 18p; Fc: Rs 44; Q: Rs 21; Shp: Rs 28; Thp: Rs; 36; Tri: Rs 82 & 49; Ex: Rs 475 & 395.

V race: Rs 69w; 17, 14, 16p; Fc: Rs 209; Q: Rs 96; Shp: Rs 38; Thp: Rs 51; Tri: Rs 375 & 146; Ex: Rs 707 & 407.

VI race: Rs 54w; 17, 19, 12p; Fc: Rs 503; Q: Rs 273; Shp: Rs 50; Thp: Rs 61; Tri: Rs 516 & 151; Ex: Rs 2,050 & 1,405.

VII race: Rs 39w; 19, 11, 28p; Fc: Rs 153; Q: Rs 54; Shp: Rs 24; Thp: Rs 65; Tri: Rs 575 & 883; Ex: Rs 2,769 & 932.

Jackpot: Rs 1,808 (149). **Runner-up:** Rs 93 (1235). **I treble:** Rs 60 (746). **II treble:** Rs 2,765 (29).

Trakila favoured for the Indian Gold Vase

KOLKATA SELECTIONS

Aashay Doctor-trained Trakila, to be ridden by Trevor Patel, and Casteel, from the stables of Satish Narredu and to be piloted by Suraj Narredu, are likely to dominate the finish in the small field of five runners for the Indian Gold Vase, the feature event of the Calcutta races to be run over a distance of seven furlongs at the races on Wednesday.

The first race starts at 2:30 pm.

1. Leonardo Handicap - 1200M: Schwarzenegger 1, Lahina 2, Mountain Gold 3.

2. Allodium Handicap - 1400M: Amaze And Inspire 1, Rosalia 2, True Faith 3.

3. Andrapov Handicap - 1400M: Polka Dot 1, Laguna Seca 2, Anigraha 3.

4. Indian Gold Vase - 1400M: Trakila 1, Casteel 2, Black Eagle 3.

5. Grand Annual Mile - 1600M: Admiringly 1, Storm Chaser 2.

6. Fame Star Handicap - 1200M: Enchanting 1, Three Little Words 2, Jimmy Bee 3.

Day's best: Admiringly. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **I treble:** 1, 2 & 3. II treble: 4, 5 & 6.

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Madrid on the ropes against visiting City

Leverkusen host Arsenal; PSG meet Chelsea in the first leg of last 16

MADRID, AFP

Rarely do record 15-time winners Real Madrid enter a Champions League clash as underdogs but this is the situation when Manchester City visit the Santiago Bernabeu on Wednesday.

With key attackers Kylian Mbappe, Jude Bellingham and Rodrygo Goes set to miss the game injured and Alvaro Arbeloa's team in inconsistent form, the Premier League side are firm favourites in the last 16 tie.

Man City beat Madrid in the league phase in the Spanish capital and have strengthened since then, with Antoine Semenyo and Marc Guehi arriving, while midfielder Rodri is fit after missing that match during a long-term injury absence.

Xabi Alonso was at Madrid's helm then. But his successor Arbeloa has not got the team playing with more quality or consistency.

Perhaps his biggest success has been helping winger Vinicius Junior back to form, and the Brazilian represents Real Madrid's best hope of success against City.

The winger was key in Madrid's triumph over Jose Mourinho's Benfica in the play-off round, despite allegedly being racially abused in the first leg by Benfica's Gianluca Prestianni, who denies it.

Premier League leaders Arsenal, who have never been crowned European champions, remain on track for four trophies this season as they chase their first major silverware since 2020. Mikel Arteta's men won all eight matches in the league phase to cruise into the last 16, where success against Leverkusen will set up a tie against Bodo/Glimt or Sporting.

Fixtures: Leverkusen vs Arsenal (11:15 pm), Bodo/Glimt vs Sporting CP, PSG vs Chelsea, Real Madrid vs Man City (1:30 am, Thursday).

With attackers Kylian Mbappe and Rodrygo Goes set to miss the key clash, Manchester City will start firm favourites against Real Madrid. AFP

Man City to face Liverpool in FA Cup quarterfinals

Manchester City will face Liverpool in a blockbuster FA Cup quarterfinal, while quadruple-chasing Arsenal travel to Southampton.

Monday's draw for the last eight also handed Chelsea a home tie against League One giant-killers Port Vale, who stunned Sunderland with a 1-0 win in the fifth round on Sunday.

West Ham, who beat Brentford 5-3 on penalties after a 2-2 draw on Monday, will host Leeds in the other quarter-final.

But it is City's latest showdown with rivals Liverpool that is the standout tie of the round.

Pep Guardiola's side have already beaten Liverpool twice this season, including 3-0 in Manchester in November.

Quarters draw: Southampton v Arsenal; Chelsea v Port Vale; Man City v Liverpool; West Ham v Leeds.

Hosts India look to seal semi berth

A draw against struggling Wales will be enough to take them through

HYDERABAD, PTI

India will look for at least a draw against Wales in their final pool match to advance to the semifinal of the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup Qualifiers here on Wednesday.

India are currently leading Pool B with four points from two games, same as second place Scotland but enjoy a superior goal difference.

The top two teams from each pool will qualify for the semifinals and India will need a draw or a win to enter the last four round.

But if India lose, they will stay on four points and their qualification will depend on the match between Scotland and Uruguay.

The Indian women have had a strong campaign so far. They opened the tournament with a massive 4-0 win over Uruguay on March 8 and then fought hard for a 2-2 draw against Scotland on Monday.

India, led by Salima Tete (left), have been in good form with a 4-0 victory over Uruguay, followed by a 2-2 draw against Scotland at the FIH World Cup Qualifiers in Hyderabad.

LIVE 7:30 PM, STAR SPORTS & HOTSTAR

Young forward Sunelita Toppo has been in top form, scoring in both matches. Attackers Lalremsiami, Navneet Kaur, and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal have also been excellent, finding the net and creating multiple scoring opportunities.

The Indian defence has also held firm, with goalkeeper Bichu Devi making crucial saves consistently.

Playing in front of a cheering home crowd in Hyderabad has also given the hosts a wonderful boost of energy.

India captain Salima Tete is satisfied with the team's performance so far.

"After the opening two games, there is positivity in the team. The young players are taking their opportunity and have been doing very well. The team is relishing playing freely, and that is a very good thing for us," she said.

"We want to qualify for the World Cup and become champions. That's what we talk about when the team is together and that's our goal," Tete added.

India enjoy a promising record against Wales, leading the head-to-head battles 5-1.

But Wales will come hard hard in their bid to register their first win of the campaign, and so India need to stay focused and avoid complacency.

Indian Open to tee off from March 26

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Hero Indian Open, to be held in Gurugram from March 26 to 29, will feature a world-class field led by PGA Tour star Akshay Bhatia (**in pic**) and a record prize purse.

Sanctioned by the DP World Tour and Indian Golf Union (IGU), the tournament's prize purse has been increased to a record USD 2.55 million, up from USD 2.25 million on offer a year ago.

The star-studded field will include the 24-year-old Indian-American Bhatia, who has risen to new heights by winning the iconic Arnold Palmer Invitational 2026 at Bay Hill, Orlando, USA.

Now placed second on the FedEx Cup standings, Bhatia, who is Hero MotoCorp's Global Brand Ambassador, will make his first trip to India with this tour.

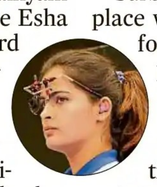
Rayhan Thomas, who has been on the Korn Ferry Tour for last two years, is also confirmed for the field. The field will also include Italy's Francesco Molinari, who is also a three-time PGA Tour winner.

Bhullar to lead

Defending champion Gaganjeet Bhullar wil lead a strong field in the opening leg of the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) to be held here from March 11 to 13. Bhullar leads a group of talented stars including Pukhraj Singh Gill.

Bhaker tops women's 10m air pistol selection trials

NEW DELHI, PTI: Olympian Manu Bhaker (**in pic**) topped the finals of women's 10m pistol event in the national selection trials T3 (Group A) which concluded here on Tuesday.



Trial two winner Sainyam finished second while Esha Singh secured the third spot in the eight-woman final.

Manu, who squeezed into the finals as the last qualifier, maintained her lead from the end of the second series to finish on top with a total score of 246.1, which was a comfortable 4.2 points more than World Cup Final silver medallist Sainyam who finished with 241.9.

Asian Championship gold and World Championship bronze medallist Esha finished third with a score of 220.6.

Asian Games champion Palak Gulia finished fourth after a score of 200.2 followed by Anjali Choudhary, who hit 179.8.

Surbhi Rao finished in sixth place with a score of 158.2 followed by Deaflympics medallist Pranjali Prashant Dhumal and Muskan, who scored 138.7 and 117.0 respectively, completing the top eight.

Esha had qualified for the final in top spot with a score of 580-21x followed by Surbhi Rao who shot 578-12x. Muskan qualified in third place after scoring 577-15x followed by Anjali Choudhary (575-19x), Sainyam (575-16x), Palak (574-14x) and Manu (574-11x).

Angelo for Speed King Plate

DELHI SELECTIONS

Angelo, from the stables of S Nawab and to be ridden by AS Peter, will garner the maximum support in the Speed King Plate, the feature event of the Delhi races run over a sprint at the races on Wednesday.

The first race starts at 2:45 pm.

1. Rapid Dash Plate - 1600M: Banksy 1, Girl Power 2.

2. Quick Fire Plate - 1200M: Miss Boost 1, Daring Diva 2, Humaira 3.

3. Speed King Plate - 1200M: Angelo 1, Lodge Keeper 2, Eliminator 3.

4. Lightning Bolt Plate - 1000M: Ashwa Sultan 1, Emperor Ashoka 2, Winning Legacy 3.

5. Swift Strike Plate (Div I) - 1000M: Magic Spell 1, Stylish Dancer 2, Maya 3.

6. Swift Strike Plate (Div II) - 1000M: Trending Cruise 1, Poly Czar, 2, Jet Thunder 3.

Day's best: Banksy. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **Treble:** 4, 5 & 6.

'Keeper Panthoi Chanu (right) receives medical attention. AFP

Two Indian players hospitalised after Asian Cup exit

SYDNEY, PTI

Indian football team captain Sweety Devi and goalkeeper Panthoi Chanu were taken to a hospital after getting injured during the side's 1-3 defeat to Chinese Taipei in their last group league fixture of the AFC Women's Asian Cup here on Tuesday.

The defeat ended India's campaign in the prestigious continental tournament, having lost their first two matches to Vietnam and Japan.

"Panthoi Chanu and Sweety Devi have been taken to hospital after sustaining injuries during today's match. Further assessment is awaited," the All India Football Federation said.

The two Indian stars got injured in the 83rd minute when Panthoi charged out to stop a Chinese Taipei attack and collided with her teammate Sweety. Both players were stretchered off the field.

Panthoi suffered a massive swelling on her face after being struck by Sweety's knee, while the latter briefly remained motionless on the ground before medical staff intervened. Both players were taken to a nearby hospital soon after the incident for further tests, after which the severity of the injuries will be known.

In the match, India's inability to convert chances in the final third proved costly, leading to an early exit after they qualified for the tournament on merit for the first time.

Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Haveri

Sl.No /DAM/APMC/H/RIDF-31/754/2025-26 Date : 07-03-2026.

E-Tendar Notification

Under the RIDF-31 of Haveri Agricultural Produce Market Committee for the year 2025-26, item-wise tender prices in two cover system for works have been invited from eligible contractors registered by the Public Works Department on the KPPP portal. Standard Tendering Document KW-4 https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Eligible contractors can submit tenders. For more information, please visit the above website and during office hours.

Sl. No	Name of work & Indent No.	Amount put Tender (Excluding GST)	Last date and time for receipt of tender.
1	PROVIDING INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES AT MAIN MARKET YARD OF APMC HAVERI UNDER RIDF-31 SCHEME 2025-26. (Food green Market) (APMC/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT855)	**4,99,65,904-00**	Date : **13-04-2026** Time : 5.00 PM

Sd/- [G.B. Kabberalli] Secretary, APMC, Haveri.

Sd/- [D.B. Adarsh] Administrator, APMC, Haveri.

DIPR/HAVERI/KSMCA/786/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.

ದೂರವಾಣಿ: +91-94498 43067 ಮಿಂಚಂಚೆ:dhoyadgiri2@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಜಿಆ&ಕುಕಅಕಾ/ಯಾ/ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ/ 19 /2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09-03-2026

ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ:- ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧೀನದ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಕ್ರಮ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ/ತಾಲೂಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ/ಸಮುದಾಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ/ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಗ್ರೂಪ್-ಡಿ (ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್& ನಾನ್‌ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್), ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು, ಶುಶ್ರೂಷಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಡಿ.ಇ.ಓ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾವಲುಗಾರ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಹೊರ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲದ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕರೆಯಲಾದ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ಕುರಿತು. [http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in]. 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಜಿಆ&ಕುಕಅಕಾ/ಯಾ/ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ/19/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09-03-2026 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ಅಂದಾಜು ರೂ.3,10,00,000/- (ಮೂರು ಕೋಟಿ ಹತ್ತು ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ) 3) ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ. 4,65,000.00 (ನಾಲ್ಕು ಲಕ್ಷದ ಅರವತ್ತೈದು ಸಾವಿರ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ) 4) E-Portal ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ & ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ. ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09-03-2026 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26-03-2026 ರವರೆಗೆ ಸಮಯ: ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ. 5) E-portal ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ &ಸಮಯ: 24-03-2026, ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 6) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನುತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ &ಸಮಯ : 26-03-2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 7) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದಕಛೇರಿ ವಿಳಾಸ ಹಾಗೂ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತುಕ'ಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: dhoyadgiri2@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ: +91-94498 43067

ಸಹಿ/- ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು

ಪಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರ/584/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಪಿ.&ಎ/2025-26 ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.

AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of vehicles.

1) CB_SUPRO_MINI_TRUCK YOM – 2023 Reg No – KA35D6393
2) - TATA MOTORS LTD. - TATA LPO 1610VEHCARR YOM – - Reg No – KA20AC1827
3) CB_Ashok Leyland Dost GOODS YOM – - Reg No – KA13D6611
4) CB_EICHER_PRO_3018_SLP _HSD_BS6_22FT_FBT PICK-UP YOM – 2024 Reg No – KA22AA5411
5) AL_DOST_GOODS YOM – 2023 Reg No – KA38A5832
6) CB_TATA_LPK_2823_TIPPER YOM – 2022 Reg No – KA06AB3444
7) CB_TIPPER_AL_MA1920 YOM – 2022 Reg No – KA51AH9871
8) VOLVO EICHER - CB_EICHER6048 YOM – -- Reg No – KA21C6979
9) CB_TATA_MOTORS_ULTRA _T19_GOODS_FBV YOM – -- Reg No – KA06AC2239

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS (ONLINE/OFFLINE) WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THIS PAPER PUBLICATION i.e. from 11.03.2026

(Please note that closing Auction date would not be a Weekly off / Holiday)

BRANCH ADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD., 22, MG ROAD, BANGALORE KARNATAKA – 560001

OR

Contact: Arunlaxman Kokare Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. Contact / 080 - 61564249

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)

No: EE/ UTP /RNR/Seepage-Works/SD-3,4&5/PB-2/2025-26/3019 Date: 06-03-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPPP portal system) Two cover system

Percentage tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, from eligible bidders who satisfies through GO KPPP plat form https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The Canal Construction work under No.04 Byadgi & No.03 & No.05 Haveri sub division 07 number of Canal Works whose amount put to tender varies from Rs: 248.85 Lakhs to Rs:497.95 Lakhs (including GST) and EMD amount varies from Rs:3.16 Lakhs to Rs:6.33 Lakhs under UTP Division Ranebennur under the Head of account UTP 4701 for the year 2025-26.

Tender processing fee as per KPPP portal system is non refundable. The electronic tender documents can be obtained through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. and can be submitted through KPPP portal. (1)The contractor can have access to e-tender documents from 09-03-2026 to 17-03-2026 up to 5.00 PM (2)The Pre-bid meeting to be scheduled on 13-03-2026 up to 11.30 AM at O/o Executive Engineer, KNNL UTP Division Ranebennur (3)The Last Date and time for tender queries before 16-03-2026 up to 4.00 PM. (4) Last date of bid submission of completed e-tendering documents on 17-03-2026-up to 5.00 PM (5) Technical Bid will be opened on 18-03-2026 at 5.30 PM at the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, UTP Division, Ranebennur. Any changes made in the said Notification Corrected /Corrigendum's will be uploaded in the KPPP portal.

For details visit our website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact the undersigned in all working days during the office hours. Phone No. (08373) – 297332 Conditional tenders are liable to be rejected. The officer competent to accept the tender reserves the right of cancelling/rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons what so ever.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, U.T.P. Dn, Ranebennur.

1979

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)

Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL,Dandavathi Reservoir Project Division, Shikaripura.

Short Term Tender Notification- 40/2025-26 Date: 05.03.2026(Call-4) Ref:1. Short Term Tender Notification- 19/2025-26 Date: 23-10-2025 2. Short Term Tender Notification-25/2025-26 Date: 10-12-2025(Call-2) 3. Short Term Tender Notification- 33/2025-26 Date: 23.01.2026(Call-3)

(Two document System & KPPP System only)

Short term percentage tender are invited as per K.P.P.P on behalf of Managing Director KNNL Bangalore from eligible contractors such as KPWD Class-I/ CPWD Class-1 & Above registration. The tenders are required to submit tenders only through K.P.P. portal of Govt of Karnataka (http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

"Survey, Investigation, Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Tank Filling Scheme System for filling up of 15tanks by lifting water from Dandavathi River in SorabaTaluk of Shivamogga District consisting of the following components: construction of Bridge cum Barrage, Intake structure, Jackwell cum pump house, Pumping machineries, 11/0.433KV sub-station,11 KV Transmission line and 11 KV Terminal bay, Rising main, Pressure distribution network, surge analysis and protection system for filling up of 15 tanks including supply of spares parts and tools, O & M for five years after successful commissioning of the work under Yadagoppa Tank fillingscheme on turn-key basis". (INDENT No: 3317) Work Amount put to tender Rs. 34.93 Crores and EMD Rs.0.30 Crores

1) Date of downloading & submission of tender (through KPPP) will be on 09.03.2026 to 08.04.2026 up to 5.00 PM 2) Date of Pre bid meeting:23.03.2026 @11.00AM.(O/o Chief Engineer, KNNL, UTP Zone Shimogga 3) Opening of technical bid will be on 10.04.2026 @ 11.00 AM 4) Financial bid will be opened after approval of technical bid.

For more details visit website from date-09.03.2026 at (http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

Sd/- Executive Engineer. KNNL, DRP Division shikaripura

DIPR/smg/Ksmca/25-26/64/02/1981

IN BRIEF

State's para shuttlers shine

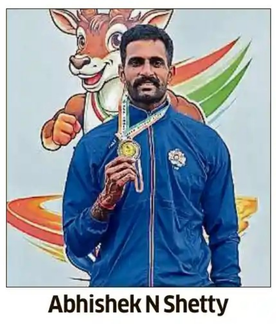
▸ Karnataka's para shuttlers put in an impressive performance as they clinched a total of 12 medals (2 gold, 4 silver & 6 bronze) at the 7th National Para Badminton Championship, held from March 6-10 in Telangana, reports DHNS.

Pallavi KM stood out with both the gold medals in women's wheelchair 1 singles and wheelchair doubles. She also bagged a silver in mixed doubles wheelchair category.

Arshdeep fined 15% match fee

▸ India pacer Arshdeep Singh has been fined 15 per cent of his match fee for throwing the ball "aggressively and inappropriately" at New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell during the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Ahmedabad, reports PTI from Dubai.

In addition, one demerit point has been added to Arshdeep's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period.



Abhishek N Shetty

City Police's Abhishek wins first-ever gold medal

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bangalore City police's sub-inspector Abhishek N Shetty ended the state's gold medal drought at the All India Police Athletics Championships as the decathlete reigned supreme by amassing 6709 points across 10 events.

Abhishek edged Punjab's Navjor Singh by less than 50 points while maintaining his lead on both days of the event.

CISF's Neeraj Kumar Yadav took the third position after a close battle with Abhishek on Day 1.

Sahil maintains early lead

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Sahil Punjabi maintained the lead at the end of first Block of six games in Round 1 of the ARC 34th National Tenpin Bowling Championships here.

The competition will now move into the second block of six games on the Medium oil condition, after which the top 40 bowlers based on the combined pinfall from 12 games (Blocks 1 and 2) will progress to Round 2.

Karnataka's Surendra Babu sits in second place with a total pinfall of 1204 pins at an average of 200.67, trailing Punjabi by just 12 pins.

Defending champion Akaash Ashok Kumar holds third place with 1196 pins.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

1st ODI: Bangladesh vs Pakistan (**1:45 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

FOOTBALL

Champions League: Leverkusen vs Arsenal (**11:15 pm**), Bodo/Glimt vs Sporting CP, PSG vs Chelsea, Real Madrid vs Manchester City (**all 1:30 am, Thursday**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**, **SonyLIV**.

HOCKEY

Women's WC Qualifiers: England vs Austria (**12:45 pm**), Italy vs Korea (**3 pm**), Uruguay vs Scotland (**5:15 pm**), India vs Wales (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

CRICKET

New Zealand's final CONUNDRUM

Just one title in six finals since 2015: The puzzle of Kiwis' near-perfect consistency

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

New Zealand have been one of the the most consistent teams in the last decade or so by reaching six finals in ICC events but have managed to win just one of them. REUTERS

On an episode of AB de Villiers' YouTube show ahead of the T20 World Cup final, his former South African team-mate Dale Steyn urged New Zealand to win the title. Half jokingly, he even "threatened" to officially hand over the chokers' tag, long associated with the Proteas, to the Kiwis if they fell short again.

It was hard to tell whether the legendary pacer was more frustrated with New Zealand's tendency to stumble at the final hurdle or with the fact that they are rarely labelled chokers despite repeated defeats in finals. Either way, a harsh truth remains: The Black Caps often punch above their weight but that punch tends to win them a few rounds rather than the bout itself.

From their loss to Australia in the 2015 ODI World Cup final to their most recent defeat against India in the T20 World Cup final, New Zealand have reached six ICC tournament finals during that period. Only India have made more finals with seven appearances in title deciders. Australia are third at five followed by England at three.

The difference lies in what happens next. While India have won three of those seven finals with all three coming since September 2024, Australia have won four out of five. England have won two out of three. New Zealand, meanwhile, have managed just one title from those six attempts: the 2023 World Test Championship against India. They have also lost three semifinals in the same period.

For a country with roughly half the population of Bengaluru and where cricket is not even the No. 1 sport, reaching ICC finals with such regularity is remarkable. Standing toe to toe with powerhouses like India, Australia and England, teams with far larger talent pools and financial muscle, is impressive in itself.

"The talent that comes out of India is phenomenal. They could probably pick three sides that would compete just as evenly in this World Cup. So for us to go out and compete with teams around the world, with such a small population, is fantastic," all-rounder Glenn Phillips said on the eve of the final.

But what will it take for them to finally cross that last hurdle?

"I guess it's not ideal, losing finals," skipper Mitchell Santner admitted. "When you get to this situation, you're coming up against teams that are also playing very good cricket."

In terms of skill, the Kiwis are second to none. They may not have as many global superstars as some of the bigger teams but their team spirit and tactical clarity make them one of the most competitive sides in international cricket. Watch them in the field and you see the collective effort. Look at their planning and you see how carefully they prepare for matchups. Perhaps their biggest strength is their awareness of their own limitations. They do not have a once-in-a-generation bowler like Jasprit Bumrah. They do not rely on mystery spinners or the kind of power-packed batting lineup India possess. What they do have is the ability to maximise every resource at their disposal.

Santner goes about his job efficiently, without theatrics. Matt Henry keeps batters quiet through control more than cunning. Finn Allen and Tim Seifert can be as explosive as anyone, even if they do not attract the same spotlight. Daryl Mitchell often operates like an undercover agent, doing the damage before opponents realise it.

When all these parts come together, New Zealand function like a well-oiled machine. And that is usually the case until the final.

The Kiwis have every reason to be proud of what they have achieved. They also never miss a chance to point out their limited talent pool. That raises an uncomfortable question. Could they be unconsciously satisfied with simply reaching the final? Once the goal becomes making the final rather than winning it, it becomes difficult to keep your competitive juices flowing.

Michael Gervais, a high-performance psychologist who has worked with multiple gold-medal-winning US Olympic teams, argues that athletes must reset their focus after major milestones. The key, he says, is to return to the process rather than the achievement. Success can easily make people outcome-focused or even complacent.

Elite performers, he explains, try to stay in the present and focus on the next action, not on the milestone they have already reached. Without that reset, motivation and intensity can fade.

New Zealand's run of final defeats suggests that perhaps the time has come for such a reset. Reaching the final is an achievement. Winning it requires holding on to the same hunger and mental edge that got them there in the first place.

New Zealand in ICC events since 2015

- 2015 ODI World Cup: Lost to Australia
- 2019 ODI World Cup: Lost to England
- 2021 World Test Championship: Won vs India
- 2021 T20 World Cup: Lost to Australia
- 2025 Champions Trophy: Lost to India
- 2026 T20 World Cup: Lost to India

GT appoint Hayden as batting coach

AHMEDABAD, PTI: Former Australian opener Matthew Hayden has been named as the batting coach of Gujarat Titans for the upcoming IPL season, the franchise announced on Tuesday.

A two-time ODI World Cup winner and one of the most dominant opening batters of his era, Hayden joins the Titans set-up with an illustrious international career and expertise in modern-day T20 batting dynamics.

Hayden represented Australia in 273 international matches across formats, scoring over 15,000 international runs and played a pivotal role in multiple ICC tournament victories.

Commenting on the appointment, GT Director of Cricket, Vikram Solanki said: "Matthew's appointment comes at a pivotal phase in our journey. His experience at the highest level, coupled with his ability to mentor emerging talent, will be instrumental in shaping our batting identity for the seasons ahead."

On his part, Hayden said: "Good batting applies pressure. Great batting owns the game. That's the standard we want to set at Gujarat Titans."

His aggressive yet technically robust approach to batting laid early foundations for the evolution of powerplay dominance in white-ball cricket. He also featured in 32 IPL matches.

Matthew Hayden

'Good to join the elite company'

SKY elated to join Dhoni, Rohit as T20 WC winning captain

MUMBAI, PTI

India's Suryakumar Yadav (right), along with his wife Devisha, poses with the ICC T20 World Cup Trophy. PTI

Two days after captaining India to a T20 World Cup title, Suryakumar Yadav is slowly taking in the enormity of the achievement that has put him in august company of Kapil Dev, M S Dhoni and Rohit Sharma, who too helped the team lift ICC trophies.

Soon after returning from Ahmedabad, where India won a record third T20 World Cup title on Sunday, Suryakumar reflected on the side's successful campaign and the road ahead.

"It feels good to win 24 and 26 back-to-back. It is a very special feeling. When we won in 2024, we thought it would be so special to do this again at home in 2026," Surya told PTI Videos at his residence.

"The next target is to win the Olympic gold in 2028. The team has a good momentum. If India wins the T20 World Cup in the same year, it will be great." On being compared to the likes of Rohit and Dhoni, he added: "It feels good to join that elite company. I am slowly feeling it. It is a very special feeling to be talked about among such great people. I will try to do the same in the future and help India win more trophies."

Rohit was the captain when India ended an ICC trophy drought with the win in Barbados back in June 2024. Dhoni led India to victories in 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 ODI World Cup.

Kapil Dev's team won the 1983 ODI World Cup, the first major title for the country.

Commercial flights for WI, SA

KOLKATA, PTI: The ICC on Tuesday booked separate commercial flights for the stranded West Indies and South Africa teams after their charter flight scheduled to take off from Kolkata "was cancelled due to logistical issues".

"West Indies and South African players have been booked on individual commercial airline flights. All can't be booked on same airlines but ICC has taken care of individual bookings," an ICC source said.

BCCI awards Rs 131 cr for T20 champs

The BCCI on Tuesday announced a cash reward of Rs 131 crore for the entire Indian squad following its third T20 World Cup victory, reports PTI from New Delhi.

The amount covers 15 players, coaching staff, other support staff.

As per sources, the players are certain to get lion's share of the reward money while support staff amount will be decided as per hierarchy.

The amount is an increment of Rs 6 crore from the Rs 125 crore that Rohit Sharma's team was awarded back in 2024.

As per sources, each of the 15 players will receive Rs 6 crore each while remaining Rs 41 crore will be distributed among entire support staff.

"The Board congratulates the players, support staff and selectors once again on this historic achievement and wishes," Devajit Saikia said.

Alcaraz battles back to advance

INDIAN WELLS, AFP

Carlos Alcaraz had to dig deep to extend his 2026 unbeaten run, rallying from a set and a break down to beat Arthur Rinderknech 6-7 (6/8), 6-3, 6-2 in the third round at Indian Wells on Monday.

The big-serving Frenchman's aggressive game forced world No. 1 Alcaraz to call on every shot in his arsenal to turn a tense contest his way.

Alcaraz will face 13th-seeded Norwegian Casper Ruud for a place in the quarterfinals.

The Spaniard nearly managed to steal the first-set tiebreaker, in which he had trailed 2-5, but a wayward forehand on set point gave Rinderknech his chance to pocket the set with a pair of winners.

Rinderknech then produced the first service break of the match to put the top seed in a hole in the opening game of the second set.

With five Indian Wells titles Djokovic is tied for the record with Swiss great Roger Federer, but he's in the fourth round for the first time since 2017.

Djokovic next faces defending champion Jack Draper, who beat Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo 6-1, 7-5.

Carlos Alcaraz beat Arthur Rinderknech 6-7 (8), 6-3, 6-2 in the third round at Indian Wells on Monday night.

Gujarat earmarks Rs 1331 cr sports budget with an eye on Oly bid

GANDHINAGAR, PTI: The Gujarat government has made a "historic" budgetary provision of Rs 1,331 crore with an aim to transform the state into a sports hub and develop Ahmedabad as an "Olympic-ready" city, cabinet minister Jitu Vaghani informed the legislative assembly on Tuesday.

Participating in a discussion on the budgetary demands of the Sports, Youth and Cultural Activities Department, he noted that the total allocation for the department exceeding Rs 2,000 crore reflects the government's strong commitment to building Olympic-level sports infrastructure and nurturing youth talent.

"This year, a total provision of Rs 2,006 crore has been made for sports, youth and cultural activities.... Out of this, Rs 1,331 crore has been earmarked specifically for the sports sector," the minister said.

Lakshya turns focus on Worlds and Asian Games

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

India's leading men's shuttler Lakshya Sen said his focus for the rest of the 2026 season is on the two marquee events on the calendar -- BWF World Championships (August) and Asian Games (September) -- as he looks to manage his fitness after a draining week at the All England Open Badminton Championship in Birmingham.

The 24-year-old shuttler, who finished runner-up at the prestigious event for the second time in his career, has opted to skip the Swiss Open in Basel, which began on Tuesday, choosing to give his body some recovery time instead after a physically demanding run.

"Yes, I think those two are the major events that I will be playing this year: World Championships and Asian Games," said Lakshya during a media interaction.

"Before the All England, I had some really good training weeks and the idea was to build up to that tournament and peak well there. Now that I've just come back, I want to sit with my team and analyse the tournament a bit deeper; how the week went, how the training block before it worked and what we can improve." The world No. 12 endured a challenging path to the final, beating top seed Shi Yuqi in the opening round before overcoming Hong Kong's Angus Ng Ka Long and former champion Li Shifeng in the later rounds.

Lakshya Sen admitted that tense and long matches at the All England Open left him tired. AFP

He then battled through a gruelling semifinal against Canada's Victor Lai to book his place in the title clash.For a tournament like the All England, where the world's best players are stacked across the draw, a deep run usually means pushing the body to the limit and Lakshya admitted the physical toll of the week began to show by the closing stages, particularly after the marathon semifinal of 97 minutes.

"I mean, the last semifinal that I played took some toll on the body, especially when I was cramping during the match. I did everything I could to recover well and come back fresh on the finals day as well. But yeah, the cramping in the semifinals was a little bit too hard to fully recover from the next day," he said.

"Even during the match and after it, the muscles were under a lot of strain. Quite long matches the whole week, right from day one they were long games. Eventually, the muscles got tired. But I guess it was similar for my opponent as well because he had also played five matches that week."

Five Indians reach 4th round

BANGKOK, PTI: Five Indian youth boxers registered wins on the third day of the World Boxing Futures Cup here on Tuesday.

In the morning session, Chandrika Pujari (50kg) secured a convincing 5-0 unanimous decision win over a Venezuelan boxer, while Joyshree Devi (54kg) continued her strong run with a Referee Stopped Contest (RSC) victory in the third round against her Kazakh opponent.

In the men's division, L. Ambekar (50kg) also advanced with a dominant 5-0 win over his rival from Ecuador. The evening session saw Gunjan (48kg) edge past her Italian contestant in a close 3-2 win.

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